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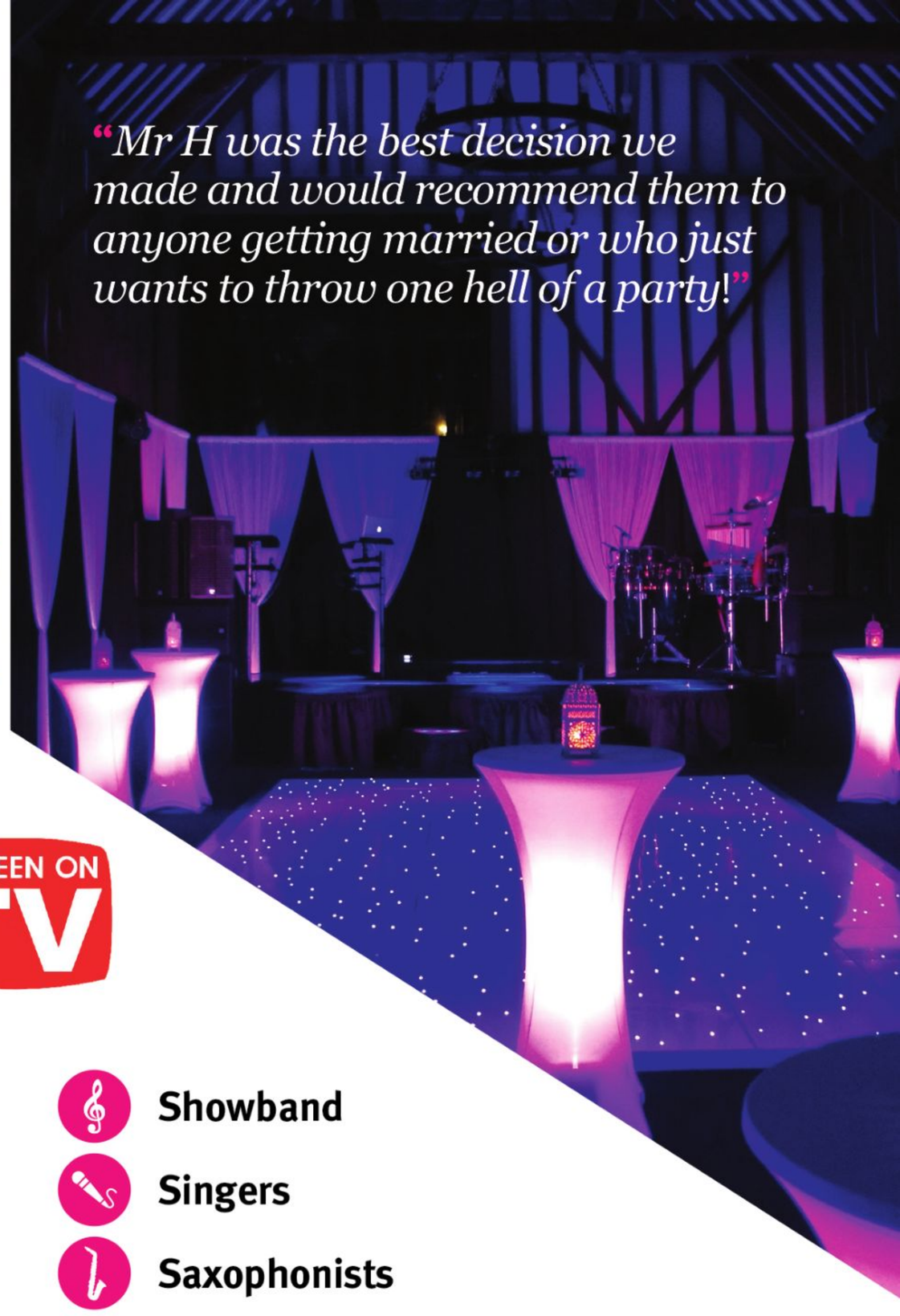
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beckyharleyphotography.co.uk

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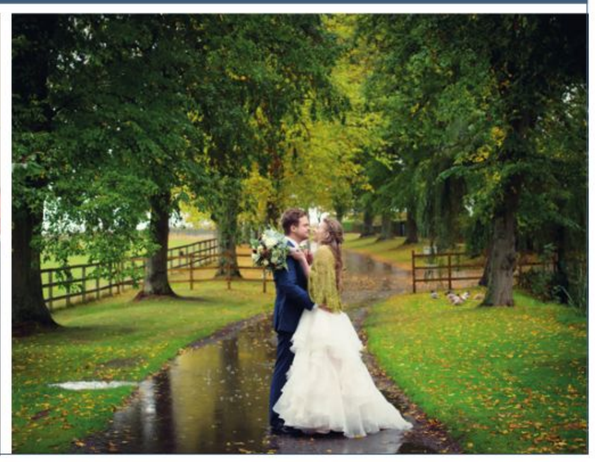
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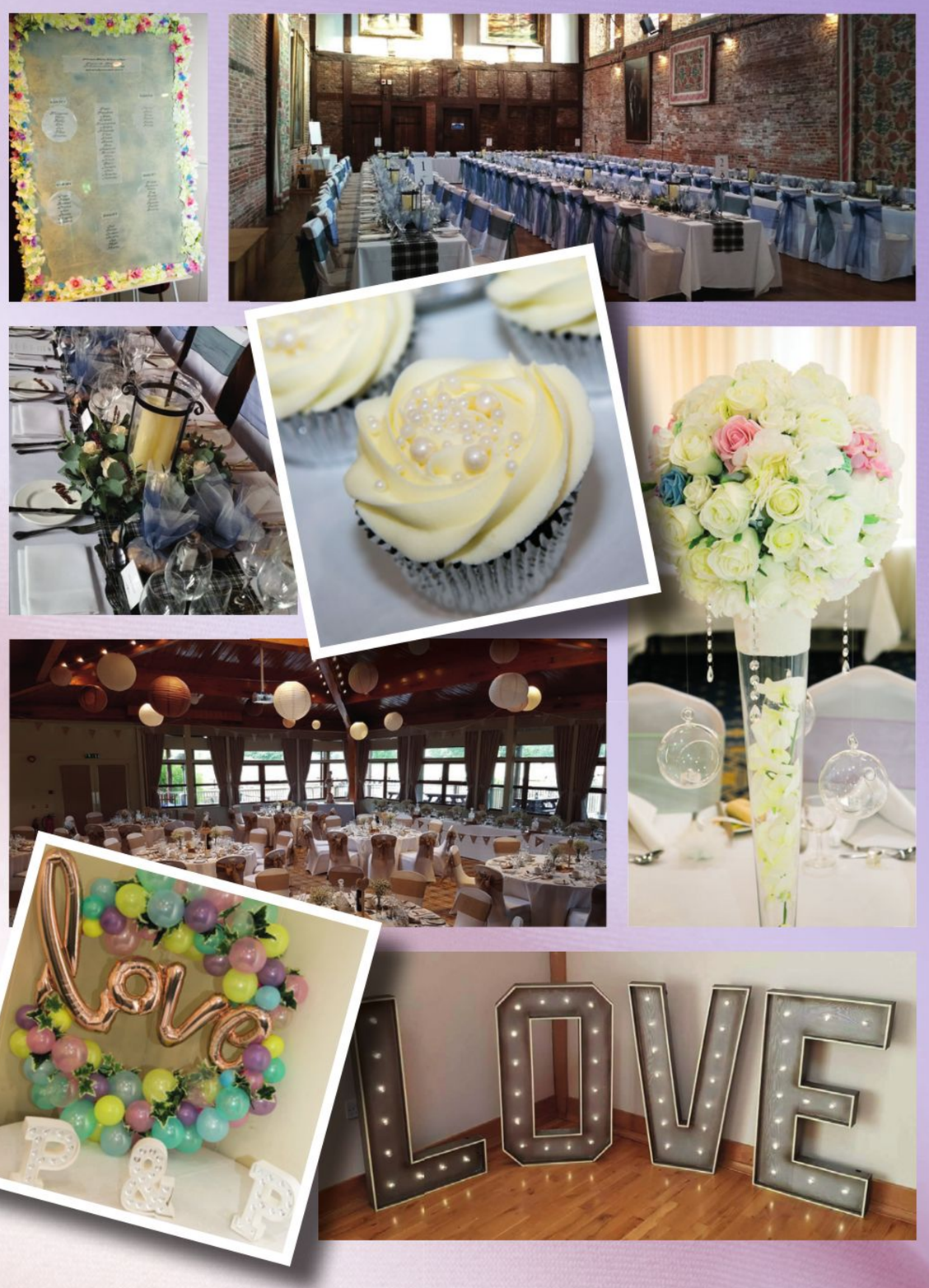
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◀ Guests get a first glimpse of your theme with your save-the-date announcements. These watercolour designs from modeprints.com start at £1.75



Be inspired by real brides! From page 41





Hello spring!

I don't know about you but I'm pretty glad to be waving goodbye to winter and welcoming spring with open arms! It brings with it an air of happiness. With blooms appearing and colour emerging all around us, it's the perfect time to get project wedding well and truly underway and we're here to help!

If you're searching for your big-day look we've got so much inspiration at the ready. Whether it's fun and flirty or timeless classics our fashion features will hit the spot. We help you add the finishing touch with some statement hairpiece options and give you the lowdown on dressing your bridal party. Flick to our gorgeous real weddings to hear from local brides, get advice from our big-day experts, and as always make the most of our offers and giveaways.

Enjoy!

Sarah x



▲ All the latest beauty must-haves for the bride-to-be on page 102



◀ Pour the wine, run a bath and relax with this spring flower scented candle. From sirgordonbennett.com for just £10

At the moment, we're...so happy that it's spring!

Something different for the fun and flirty bride. From page 88



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If you're tying the knot at Easter, keep your younger guests busy with a fun egg hunt. The Contemporary Home's range is super cute. This bucket costs £6 from tch.net



These spring bulbs will look gorgeous hung around your venue. £6 from tch.net

▲ Eggcellent styling for Easter nuptials. Page 70

This season's all about the blooms! Check out the range of pastel poppy flowers at talkingtables.co.uk ▶





◀ These Mr and Mrs balloons will look amazing in your photos or around your venue – why not tie them to the bride and groom seating at the top table? £8.99 from gingerray.co.uk



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Find out more by visiting the website alswick.co.uk or call 01763 273 530.

Nearlywed NEWS

All the latest from around the region



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Check out lutonhoo.co.uk to see what's on offer for your special day and to book or call 01582 734 437.





Hen and stag with a difference

Looking for something different to do to kick off an incredible hen or stag weekend? Don't Get Locked In is an escape room experience based in Wing, Bedfordshire. There are two exciting games to play – the Secret Hut, a 1940s-themed room and The Rock, an Alcatraz-inspired room.

Book your pre-wedding celebrations for more than six friends with Don't Get Locked In and the bride or groom gets to play for free! Email info@dontgetlockedin.com to book or visit dontgetlockedin.com to see available sessions.



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The space outside The Old Palace Lodge Hotel has been transformed and the exciting renovation of the Tudor Walled Gardens is now complete. The surroundings take influence from classic English heritage but with reference to the Tudor history of the site and make for a stunning backdrop for your photos.

Features include ornamental grasses, seasonal flowering bulbs, evergreen clipped hedges and box and yew topiary. Small ornamental trees bring to life the extensive research that informed the Tudor theme and shrubs and climbing roses add colour. Guests can relax around the contemporary firepit in the centre of the terrace, behind which lies an aged zinc water feature and two beautiful glass pods offer a private dining option.

Call 01582 226 601 or visit oldpalacelodge.com to find out more.

DATES FOR THE DIARY!

PARADISE WILDLIFE PARK WEDDING FAIR
Paradise Wildlife Park, White Stubbs Lane, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, EN10 7QA
14th April, 2019, 11am to 4pm
pwpark.com

WEDDING OPEN EVENING
Mercure St Albans Noke Hotel, Watford Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL2 3DS
2nd May, 2019, 5.30pm to 7.30pm
accorhotels.com

EASTFIELDS FARM OPEN DAY
Eastfields Farm Barns, Melchbourne, Bedfordshire, MK44 1BL
5th May, 2019, 10.30am to 4pm
eastfieldsfarmbarns.co.uk

WEDDING OPEN EVENING
Luton Hoo Hotel Golf and Spa, The Mansion House, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 3TQ
16th May, 2019, 5pm to 8pm
lutonhoo.co.uk

PUTTERIDGE BURY WEDDING SHOW
Putteridge Bury, Hitchin Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 8LE
19th May, 2019, 11am to 3pm
beds.ac.uk

CHESFIELD DOWNS WEDDING FAYRE
Chesfield Downs Golf and Country Club, Jack's Hill, Graveley, Hertfordshire, SG4 7EQ
26th May, 11am to 3pm
chesfielddownsgolf.co.uk

BESPOKE SPARKLERS

There's nothing more romantic than designing your own engagement ring. James Veale, founder of Hertfordshire's Veale Fine Jewellery, works with couples (or your hubby-to-be) to create the perfect piece. Here he shares his top tips…

Is it costly to go bespoke?
You should only spend what you're comfortable with. You want to do it well with an amount you can afford, rather than spending less and upgrading later down the line. The minimum spend for a bespoke ring with Veale Fine Jewellery is £1,500.

How do we design our ring?
After going through your ideas, I draw up two- or three-dimensional computer designs that can be rotated to give you a view from any angle. We'll then go back and forth until you're happy.

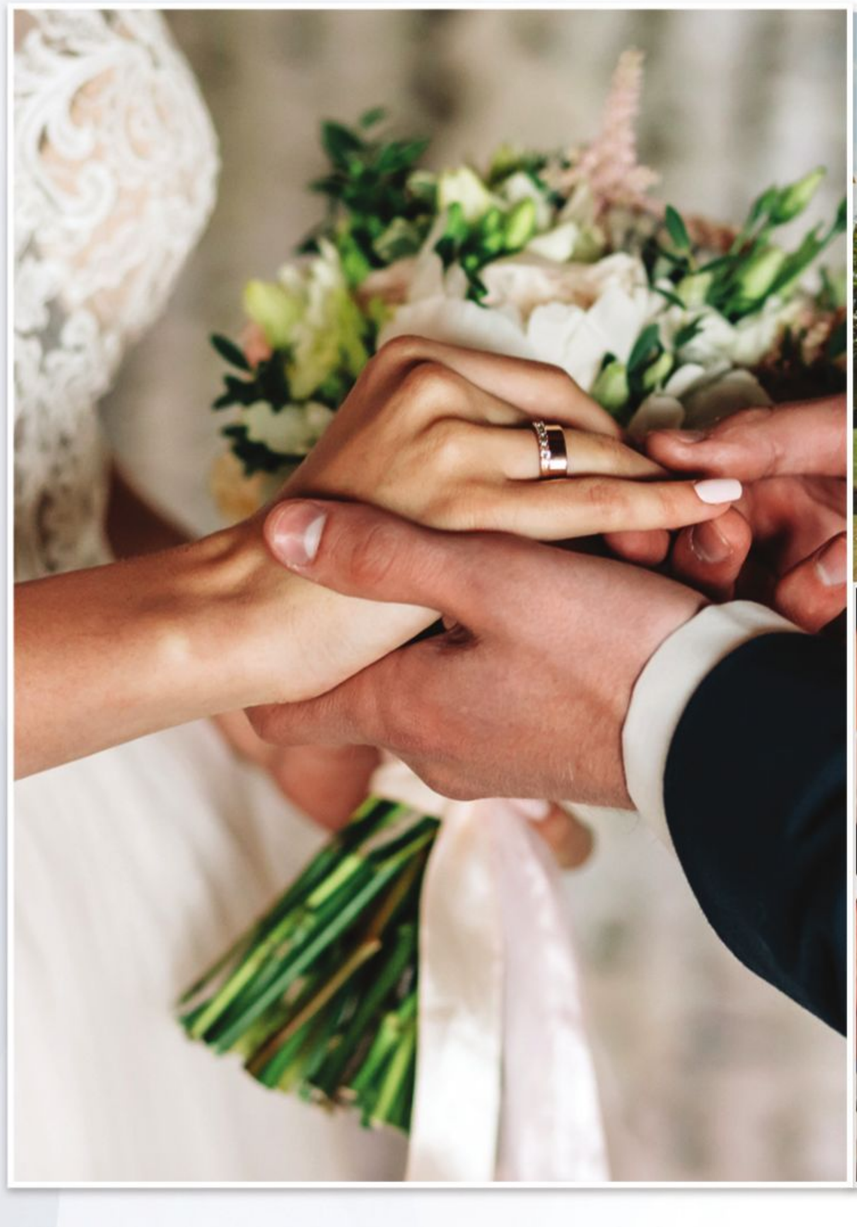
How long does it take?
Once you've approved the design we then start the creation process, which takes between four to six weeks.

Find out more about creating your own sparkler by visiting the website jamesveale.com





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County Wedding Magazines is delighted to have teamed up with online fashion store Kaleidoscope to offer our lucky readers 15% off the Miraclesuit and Naomi & Nicole shapewear.

Whether you're looking for an extra-firm control garment like the Tummy Tuck from Miraclesuit or a gorgeous smoothing undergarment like A Little Lace from Naomi & Nicole, Kaleidoscope stocks a fabulous range.

Simply enter code 'QSBP' at the checkout before the 1st May, 2019.

Check out the range at kaleidoscope.co.uk

BRING THE SALON HOME

KISS is the world's largest manufacturer and supplier of professional quality nail products and lash and brow kits. Its innovative designs are perfect for brides-to-be who are looking to save on salon prices without compromising on quality.

County Wedding Magazines is delighted to have teamed up with KISS to give our lucky readers the chance to win a beauty bundle, worth £100.

The bundle includes:

- ❤ Six KISS Lashes
- ❤ Six KISS Nails
- ❤ KISS eyelash glue
- ❤ KISS 'Wing It' eyeliner

Check out, kisseurope.uk for more products.



FIND *THE ONE*

Bedford's Kate Joseph Bridal is home to stunning wedding dresses by leading designers such as Morilee, Allure Bridals, Callista, Millie May Bridal and Louise Bentley. Those booking appointments at the boutique will have exclusive use of the boutique for two hours and a personal one-to-one service – so you're sure to find *the one*. Whether you're looking for a ball gown, A-line, fit and flare, mermaid or a simple sheath dress, there's something for everyone.

The first five brides-to-be that order their dress from Kate Joseph Bridal before the end of May, 2019, when quoting *'YHBW100'* will receive £100 off.

To find out more, visit the website katejosephbridal.co.uk



BESPOKE BAKE

Sue Creaser, owner of Croxley Cakes in Hertfordshire has been baking cakes for as long as she can remember and she loves it! "I can make people go wow and that's priceless. It's so nice to know that I play a part in making the special day all the more perfect," she says. Sue offers free cake tasting and consultations and specialises in creating romantic bespoke designs.

We've teamed up with Croxley Cakes to offer 12 free wedding cupcakes worth £30, to the first 10 brides ordering their big-day bake before the end of June, 2019. Just quote *'YHBW'* when booking to receive this offer.

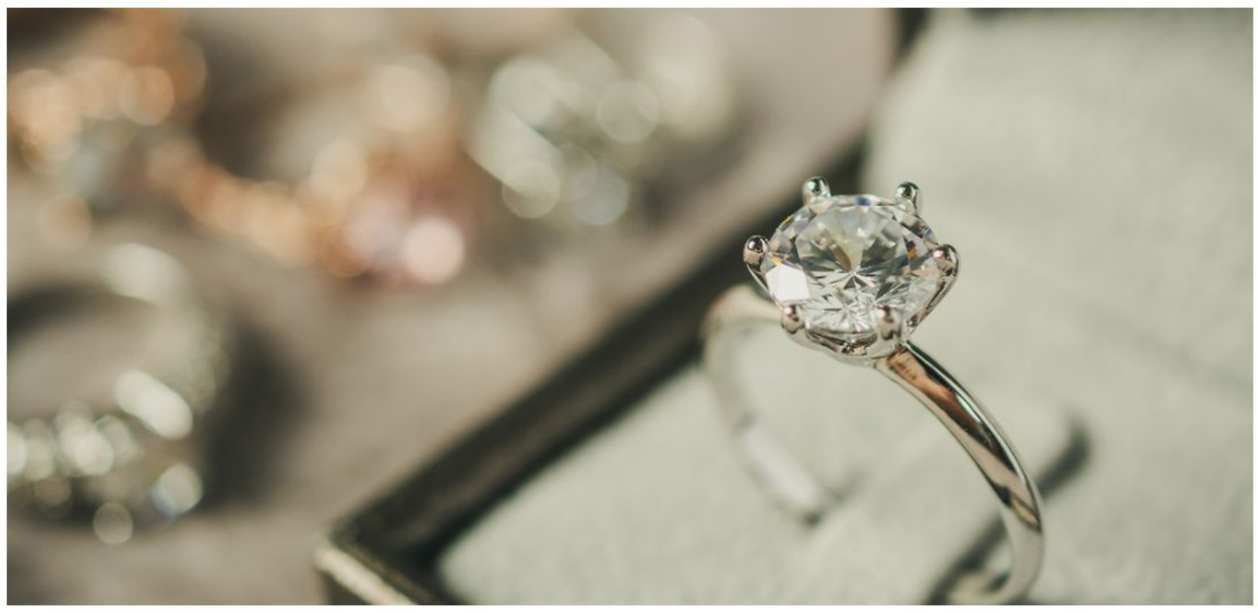
Check out facebook.com/croxleycakes to see a selection of Sue's designs or call 07886 718 059 for more information.

ENTER ONLINE AT YOURHERTSBEDS.WEDDING

Closing date 7th June 2019, unless stated otherwise.

The wonderful world OF WEDDINGS

Annie Cannock brings you the latest news from around the country



PASS IT ON

Millennials and Gen Zs are more likely to sell a family member's hand-me-down wedding dress than they are to keep or rework it into their own gown, according to a new survey of 2,000 people aged 18 to 35.

The survey, ran by jewellers Hancocks, found that less than a tenth of the younger generations would keep a relative's wedding dress if it was gifted or passed down to them, and an even smaller 3.45 per cent would keep wedding china.

However, 68 per cent do want jewellery passed down to them, specifically engagement rings and wedding bands.

The survey also showed that less than a third would want treasured family photo albums, less than a tenth would keep letters or diaries and less than one per cent would be happy to receive furniture.

For more information, visit hancocks-london.com

Check it out...

It's no secret that I'm a bit of a stationery fiend, so I just had to share Paperchase's new wedding collection. It includes gorgeous new stationery designs, planners, and bride and groom llama plushes. To see the full range, visit paperchase.com



THE BLING RING



With proposal season upon us Lorna Haddon, head of diamond rings and jewellery at Beaverbrooks reveals 2019's biggest trends;

❤ HALO DESIGNS

Halo rings aren't going anywhere – these will always be a classic. They've been created to attract attention, with a single central diamond encased by smaller stones, giving an extra serve of sparkle and creating a style that is reminiscent of vintage eras.

❤ COLOURED GEMS

This year we expect to continue seeing brides-to-be turning to different hues for a more personalised piece.

❤ PEAR-CUT DIAMONDS

While they might have once been considered unusual, they're rapidly gaining in popularity.

❤ BESPOKE TWISTS

In recent years it's been all about the bling but in 2019 we'll see this take a twist – quite literally. This could be a simple twisted, polished platinum band or a central diamond enhanced by row of smaller diamonds entwined with the band.

For more information, visit beaverbrooks.co.uk

Keeping it civil



The UK may be tying the knot more than ever but church weddings are undoubtedly on the decline, with many Brits opting for civil ceremonies instead.

The information was collected by wedding planning company Scarlet Events, it obtained the data by the Freedom of Information act, which requested statistics from councils across the country on how many religious and civil weddings were held between 1st June 2017 and 31st May, 2018.

Of the 431 councils contacted, there were 96 that held the data and were able to provide exact figures for the survey.

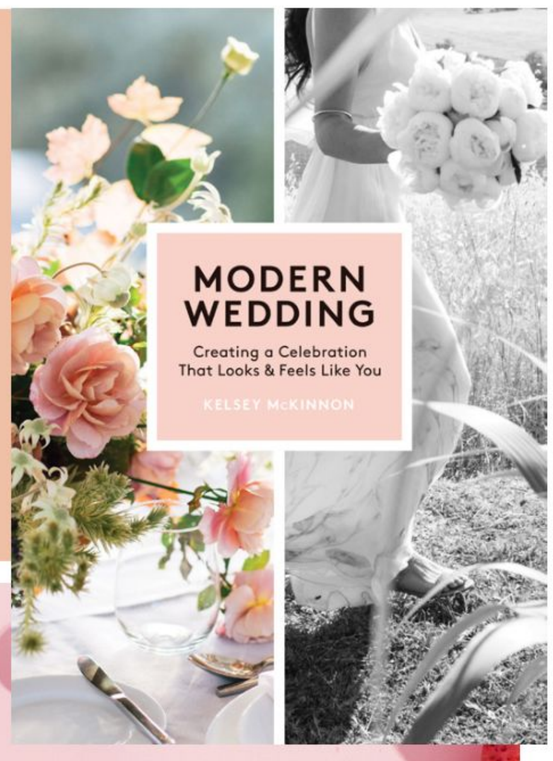
Within those regions, there was a total of only 30,032 religious ceremonies during the time period, as opposed to a staggeringly larger number of 87,686 civil weddings, showing just how popular non-religious ceremonies are becoming.

For more information, visit scarletevents.com

The white hot list

MODERN WEDDING, KELSEY MCKINNON, £30.99, WORKMAN.COM

Weddings can be complicated beasts and with the industry being so trend-driven it can be hard to keep afloat. Author McKinnon brings together a comprehensive need-to-know guide complete with gorgeous real-life case studies to illustrate her points. This is definitely something to add to your reading list in 2019.



THE NEWLYWED'S COOKBOOK, £19.99, RYLANDPETERS.COM

With delicious recipes and gorgeous photography, what's not to love about this little gem? From Sunday roast to Asian noodle bowls and everything in between, as the title suggest it's ideal for those who have just tied the knot and want a laid back date night activity, as the book gives you the opportunity to spend some time together to create and enjoy a delectable meal.



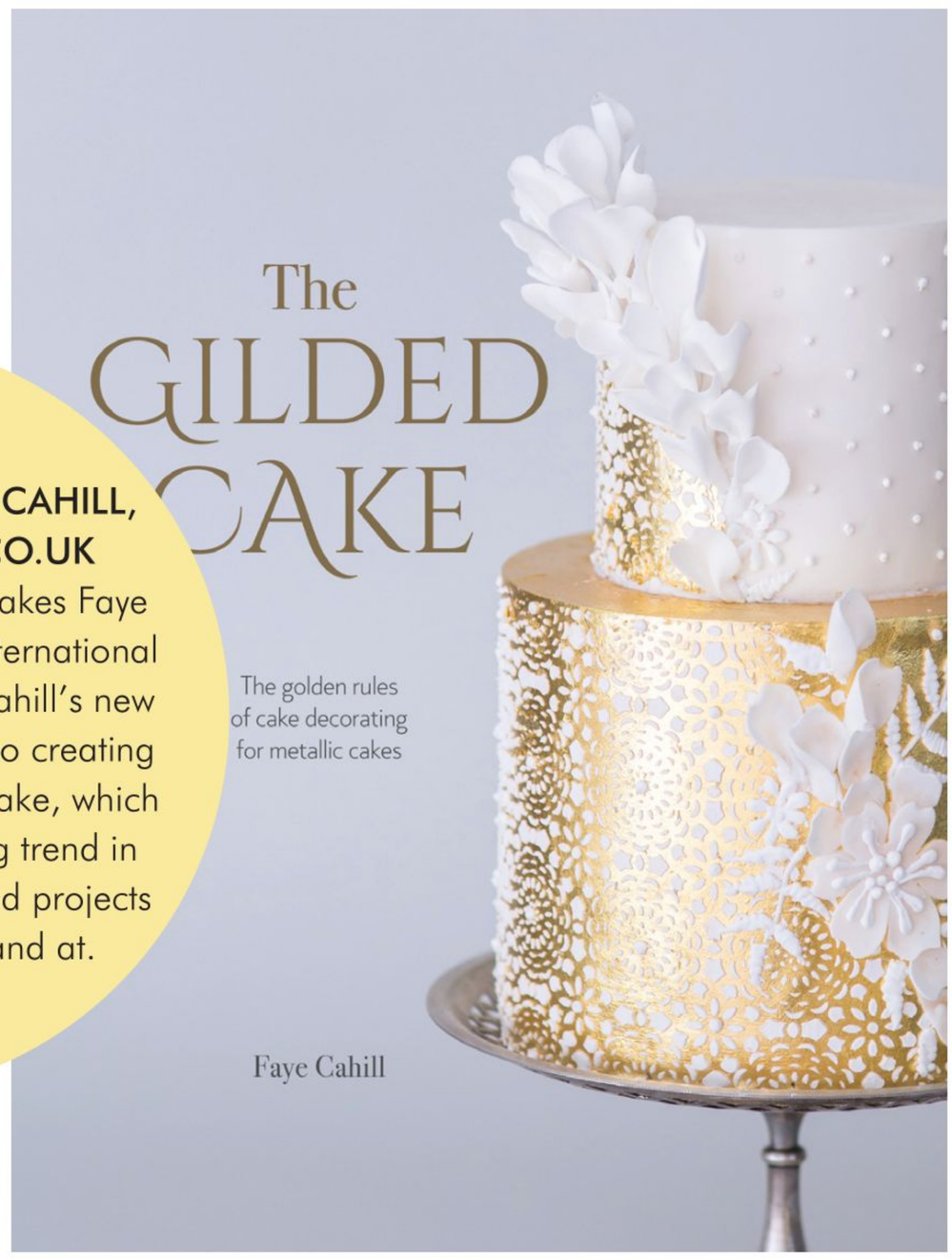


UNICORN SHIMMER PROSECCO DROPS, £3.99 EACH, TEAMHEN.CO.UK

These fun drops are ideal for your hen party, not only do they add a sparkly hue to prosecco, gin or even cocktails, but they also add flavour. The set includes passion fruit, rhubarb, lime plus many more and the tiny bottle has enough glitz for up to 80 drinks!

THE GILDED CAKE, FAYE CAHILL, £19.99, SEWANDSO.CO.UK

When it comes to wedding cakes Faye Cahill is well known on an international level for her eye for detail. Cahill's new read is a step-by-step guide to creating the perfect metallic-themed cake, which is still set to be a dominating trend in 2019. There are 12 illustrated projects which you can try your hand at.







BOKA MARSHMALLOWS, £10 FOR 24 BAGS, BOKAFOOD.CO.UK

If you're looking for a healthy snack that will still satisfy your sweet tooth, then look no further than Boka's new marshmallows. The tasty vanilla treats come in 17g bags, which each boast just 35 calories. They're completely green on the food trafficking system and are also fat and sugar free. They're the perfect pre-wedding guilt-free snack!

THE ODD FLOWER, FROM £39, THEODDFLOWER.COM

A new delightful flower subscription box which focuses on bringing elegant blooms into its clients' homes. Harnessing inspiration from the British seasons, the arrangements will not feature flowers out of character, which is ideal for those nearlyweds looking for floral inspiration in the lead up to their big day.

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or visit ashridgehouse.org.uk

ASHRIDGE HOUSE, BERKHAMSTED, HERTFORDSHIRE, HP4 1NS

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WEDDING SHOWS

ALL EVENTS 11AM - 3PM

unless otherwise stated



FREE Entry
FREE Goody bag
FREE Prize draws
Exclusive offers and discounts on the day

At County Wedding Events our aim is to help you find the perfect venue and suppliers for your wedding day.

All our events offer free entry, a complimentary goody bag with our latest glossy magazine as well as the opportunity to enter prize draw competitions and take advantage of exclusive offers and discounts on the day.

Each wedding show is hosted by a stunning venue and attended by a wide variety of quality exhibitors ready to offer help and advice in planning your day.

UPCOMING HERTS & BEDS SHOW:



Putteridge Bury

Hitchin Road,
Luton, LU2 8LE

SUNDAY 19TH MAY

UPCOMING SHOWS

ALL EVENTS 11AM - 3PM
unless otherwise stated

ESSEX



Maylands Golf Club
Colchester Road,
Romford, RM3 0AZ

SUNDAY 14TH APRIL



Signature Wedding Show
The Brentwood Centre,
Doddinghurst Road,
Brentwood, CM15 9NN

7TH – 8TH SEPTEMBER



Greenwoods Hotel & Spa
Stock Road, Stock,
CM4 9BE

SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER



Houchins
Houchins Farm,
Coggeshall, CO6 1RT

SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER



Stifford Hall Hotel
High Road, Stifford,
Thurrock, RM16 5UE

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

SURREY



Signature Wedding Show
Mercedes Benz World,
Brooklands Drive,
Weybridge, KT13 0SL

28TH–29TH SEPTEMBER

Free Entry, Goody bag for all couples & opportunity to win your dream honeymoon.

For more details and to pre-register, please visit countyweddingevents.com

EAST ANGLIA



Bressingham Hall & High Barn
Low Road,
Diss, IP22 2AA

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

BERKS, BUCKS & OXON



Signature Wedding Show
Ascot Racecourse
High Street, Ascot,
Berkshire, SL5 7JX

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER

KENT



Hever Hotel
Hever Road,
Hever, TN8 7NP

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL



Chart Hills
Weeks Lane,
Biddenden,
Ashford, TN27 8JX

SUNDAY 19TH MAY



Tudor Park
Ashford Road,
Bearsted,
Maidstone, ME14 4NQ

SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER



The Spa Hotel
Mount Ephraim,
Tunbridge Wells,
TN4 8XJ

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

UPCOMING SHOWS

ALL EVENTS 11AM - 3PM
unless otherwise stated

SUSSEX



Castle Goring
Arundel Road,
Worthing,
BN13 3UN

SUNDAY 7TH APRIL



Stanmer House
Stanmer Park Road,
Brighton,
BN1 9QA

SUNDAY 12TH MAY



Ghyll Manor
High Street, Rusper,
Horsham, RH12 4PX

SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

GLOS & WILTS



Hatton Court
Upton Hill,
Upton St Leonards,
Gloucester, GL4 8DE

SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER

BRISTOL & SOMERSET



Ston Easton
Nr. Bath,
Somerset,
BA3 4DF

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Work with us

As part of KD Media Publishing Ltd, County Wedding Events (CWE) is ideally placed to offer you a wealth of experience organising events in the wedding industry.

If you would like more information about either holding a wedding show at your venue or exhibiting at any of our shows, please contact us at info@countyweddingevents.com, call 01376 514000 or visit countyweddingevents.com.







Weddings at Shuttleworth

Shuttleworth is a five thousand acre estate, situated in Old Warden, Bedfordshire. We offer a range of unique venues to host the perfect wedding. The 1872 Grade II* Jacobean style House with accommodation set in historic parkland. The Collection's Hangar 3, an aircraft hangar housing historic aircraft and vehicles alongside a traditional grass aerodrome and The Swiss Garden, a peaceful and tranquil Regency style space with new vistas revealed at every turn, 13 listed structures and resident peacocks.

All weddings at Shuttleworth are offered with the close assistance of an experienced Wedding Planner. To book a private tour of our venues with a member of our weddings team please contact us using the details below.

01767 627917

weddings@shuttleworth.org

www.shuttleworth.org/weddings

Old Warden Park, Near Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 9EA

The Conservatory
at the Luton Hoo Walled Garden

Now licensed for civil ceremonies!









This stunning marquee is situated within the beautiful 18th Century Walled Garden on Luton Hoo Estate, offering the perfect setting for your wedding reception. Enjoy drinks on the decking overlooking the enchanting gardens and dance the night away under the magical star light ceiling.

The Conservatory is not run in conjunction with the Luton Hoo Hotel

01582 459216

events@lutonhoo-walledgarden.co.uk

www.lutonhoo-walledgarden.co.uk

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Credit: Fiona Kelly Photography



Credit: two-d Photography



Credit: Firefly Photography

woburnsafari.co.uk/safari-lodge safarilodgeevents@woburn.co.uk

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www.therufuscentre.co.uk

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WYBOSTON LAKES, MK44 3AL

Set in 380 acres of countryside along the banks of the River Ouse, Wyboston Lakes Resort has two beautiful wedding venues in which to host your big day. Seating up to 250 guests both options benefit from private lounges, well-stocked bars and dancefloor areas along with ample secure car parking.

The stunning lakes are just a short stroll away from the venues and offers peaceful beauty with great photo opportunities. The venue's award-winning chefs deliver a delicious wedding breakfast and an array of menus to suit any theme and budget.

There are some great packages on offer and guests can enjoy preferential accommodation rates so they can enjoy the party and meet up again the following morning.

Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 01480 479 208
wybostonlakes.co.uk

We love... that you can treat yourself to a pamper in the on-site 'Y' spa, or a delicious meal in the Waterfront Brasserie.

EGGINGTON HOUSE, LU7 9PH

Eggington House is a beautiful historic building that's surrounded by 35 acres of picturesque grounds. Receptions for up to 300 guests are hosted here and being exclusive-use means that you'll never share the venue with another bride and groom. The traditional three-pole marquee set in the pastures is a popular choice for celebrations and giant tipi events are also accommodated.

When booking your wedding here, you're offered two-and-a-half days' access to the venue, two beautiful bedrooms for overnight guests and, being a blank canvas, you can make it your own in terms of styling.

Ceremony licence? No
Contact: 01525 211 831
eggingtonhouse.com

We love... the stunning on-site Coach House that provides accommodation for six loved ones.





PUTTERIDGE BURY, LU2 8LE

With an unrivalled history dating as far back as 1086, Putteridge Bury creates the perfect ambience for your day and its beautiful gardens and parkland are second-to-none.

Follow in the footsteps of royalty by hosting your ceremony in the Mountbatten Room, which seats 100 guests or the John Matthews Room, which accommodates 60. The venue's distinctive dining room caters for up to 120 loved ones for the wedding breakfast and 160 for the reception, with its dancefloor making it ideal for the evening party. Situated on the Herts and Beds border, and close to a number of major road networks, this venue's easily accessible for your guests.

Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 01582 489 069
beds.ac.uk/putteridgebury.co.uk

We love... the reflecting pool and large yew hedges – a gorgeous backdrop for the all-important photos.



THE RUFUS CENTRE, MK45 1AH

The Rufus Centre is a contemporary space that provides a blank canvas in order to create your big-day theme.

There's a choice of three rooms for your ceremony; The Moorfield Room and The Davis Suite accommodate 30 and 70 guests respectively. The larger option is The Lockyer Suite, which caters for 200. This space consists of a large hall with an adjoining reception room, private bar and fully-equipped kitchen. Sliding oak doors join the main hall and reception room, which can be left open for larger parties or closed to create a quiet or separate dining area. The in-house catering team provides a choice of wedding breakfast and buffet menus, or couples are welcome to use their preferred supplier.

During the summer the large playing field is the perfect location for a marquee that's accessed from the free car park.

Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 01525 631 905
therufuscentre.co.uk

We love... the wedding garden situated just outside the main building – perfect for arrival drinks and canapés in warmer months.

THE BARNS HOTEL, MK44 3SA

The Barns Hotel is situated in a beautiful riverside location with views over the River Great Ouse and boasts three-and-a-half acres of landscaped gardens.

The stunning 13th-century Tithe Barn, complete with original features and its own bar, is nestled in the main gardens overlooking the 16th-century house. It accommodates 90 guests for the ceremony and wedding breakfast and has easy access to the outside for drinks. For the evening celebrations the barn can host 150 guests with access to the riverside terrace. The bride and groom can stay in a beautiful suite and guests can take advantage of 49 well-appointed bedrooms.

Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 01234 270 044
barnshotelbedford.co.uk

We love... the private mooring allowing you to arrive by boat to make an unforgettable entrance.



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*Conditions apply, contact us for more details.

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WOBURN ABBEY ESTATE, MK17 9WA

Home to the Earls and Dukes of Bedford for almost 400 years, The Woburn Estate offers a choice of three special venues for your big day.

Couples looking for something fun and out of the ordinary will love the idea of hosting their celebrations at Woburn Safari Park's Safari Lodge. This option seats 160 guests for your wedding breakfast and 220 for the evening reception and you can even drive through the park before the celebrations begin.

The Sculpture Gallery set in the grounds of Woburn Abbey accommodates 250 guests for your ceremony and reception, and its terrace and private gardens, overlooking the Camellia Lake, provide the perfect backdrop for your photos.

The Woburn Hotel's a truly elegant setting with emphasis on service and style that caters for 60 loved ones for the ceremony and 80 for the wedding breakfast.

Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 01525 292 172
woburnweddings.co.uk

We love... the endless opportunities for truly breathtaking photos all year round.

THE HOUSE AT SHUTTLEWORTH, SG18 9EA

A 5,000-acre site in the heart of rural Bedfordshire with rolling parkland vistas and steeped in history, the Shuttleworth estate offers an extraordinary setting for your day.

Enjoy exclusive use of the Jacobean-style country house and choose between an array of grand and finely furnished rooms to hold your ceremony, wedding breakfast and evening reception. The Summer House, set within a sunken garden, makes for an idyllic outdoor ceremony venue and the abundance of mature parkland's ideal if you wish to erect a marquee or tipi.

The Swiss Garden, designed in the late Regency era, is a rare example of period landscape design. Within the garden, surrounded by manicured lawns, are two ceremony venues – The Swiss Cottage and The Grotto and Fernery.

The Collection's Hangar 3 is a thrilling venue. With tables peppered around masterpieces of aviation and automotive history, this space lends itself to a stylish 'vintage' celebration.



Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 01767 627 917
shuttleworth.org/weddings

We love... that this multi-venue property offers the opportunity to host your ceremony and reception in more than one location.



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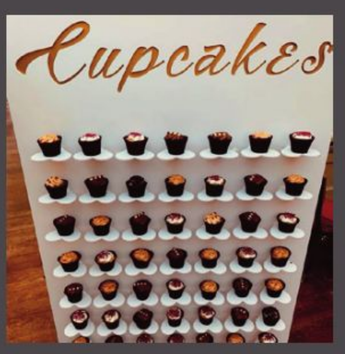




















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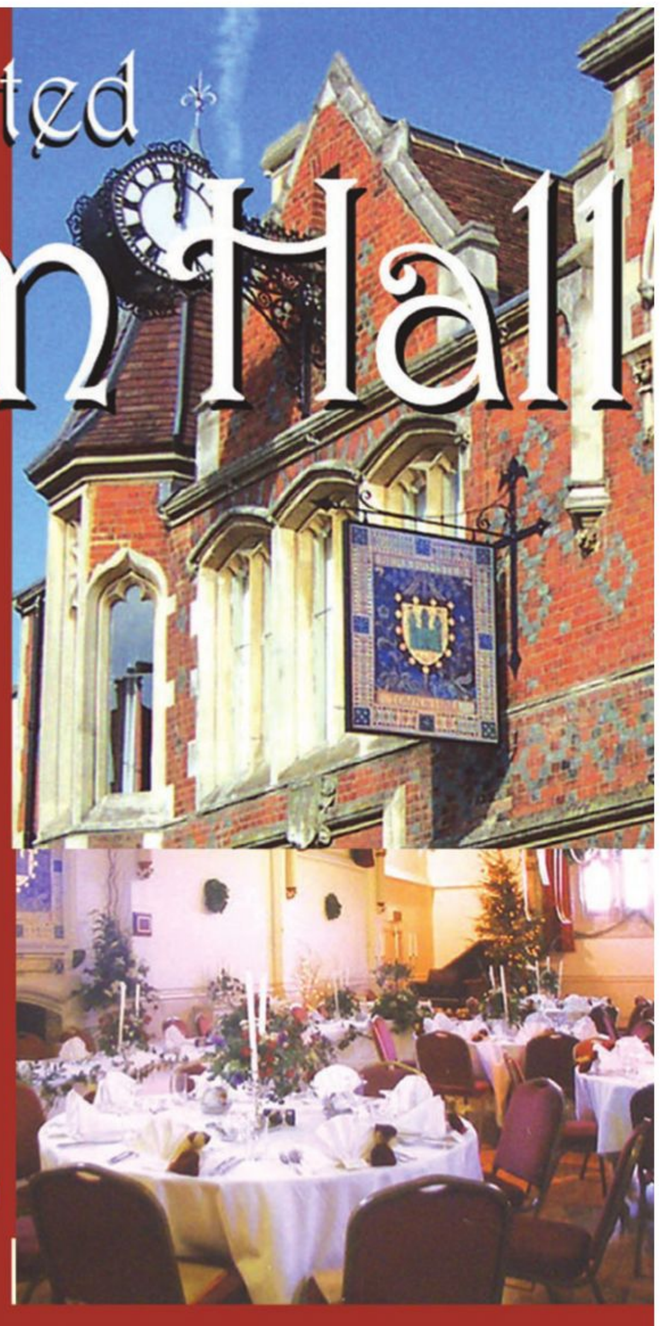
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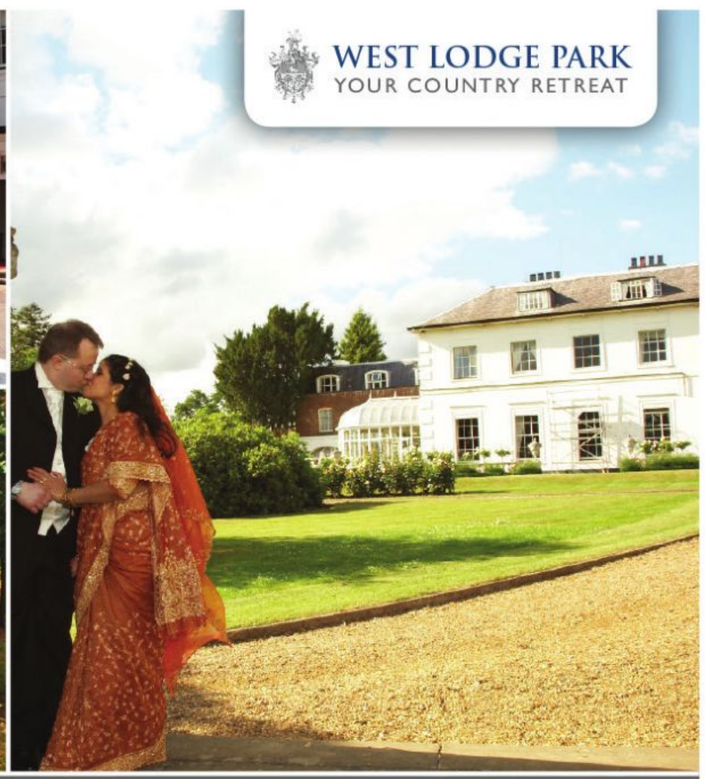
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01442 862288
email: bthtmanager@tiscali.co.uk
www.berkhamsteadtownhall.co.uk

Blissful Weddings



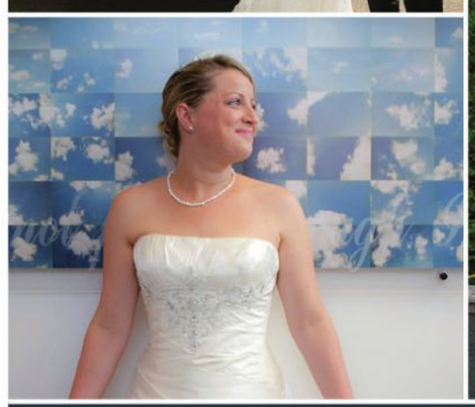
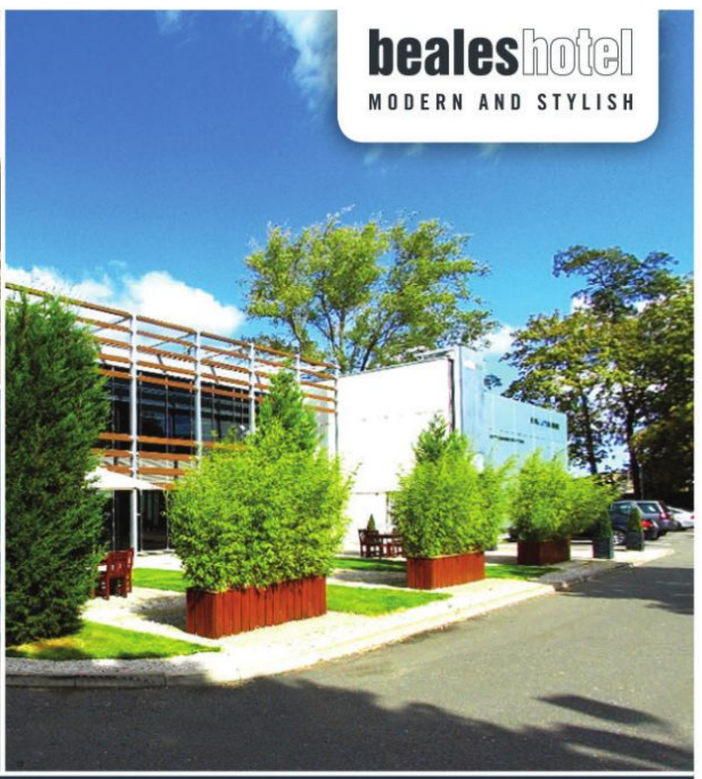


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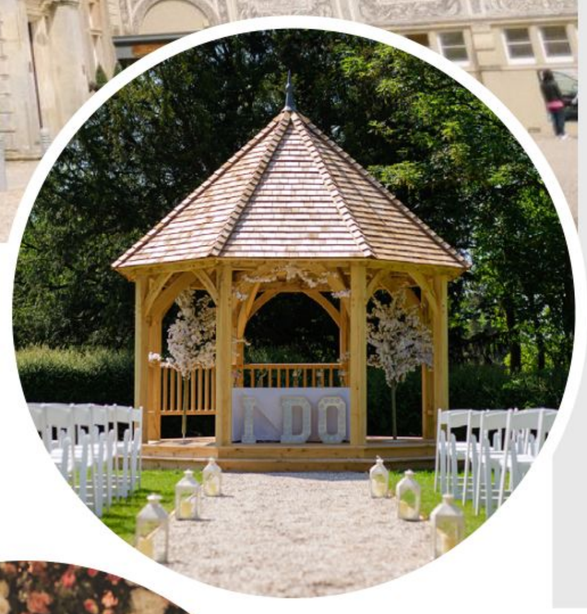


◀ DOWN HALL HOTEL AND SPA, CM22 7AS

Those looking for a lavish setting for their special day need look no further than Down Hall Hotel and Spa. Nestled among 110 acres of surrounding woodland, this 16th-century mansion boasts luxury interiors, a stunning grand staircase, a fine dining restaurant and contemporary spa facilities for that all-important R&R.

Outdoor ceremonies are now available here in the stunning Wedding Gazebo. Indoors there are a number of rooms on offer for the wedding breakfast and evening celebrations, which cater for a maximum of 180 for the sit-down meal and 230 for the reception.

Guests can stay in one of the individually designed bedrooms that each reflect the elegance and character of the property and many have glorious views of the landscaped gardens.



Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 01279 731 441
downhall.co.uk

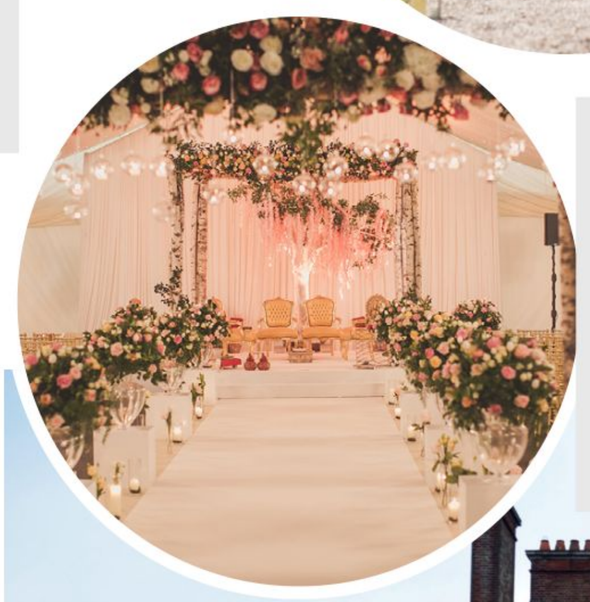
We love... that ingredients for the delicious menus are locally sourced and some are even from the venue's own vegetable garden.

HUNTON PARK, WD4 8PN ▶

With its sweeping driveway and 22 acres of rural parkland, this Georgian mansion house oozes historic grandeur and beauty. Al fresco ceremonies take place in the Manor House Porch, which seats 110 guests. The Hazelwood Suite inside the main house accommodates 170 loved ones for your ceremony or the stunning Orangery hosts 65.

Offering direct access to the gardens for your drinks reception, the Terrace Marquee, with its own bar and dancefloor, caters for 150 guests for the wedding breakfast and 250 for the evening celebrations.

Alternatively, the Garden Marquee is available on a dry hire basis for up to 500 guests for the wedding breakfast and a maximum of 700 for the ceremony.



Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 01923 277 708
huntonparkhotel.com

We love... that a complimentary bridal suite's offered for the wedding night within the new Forest Suite – also perfect for the bridal prep on the big day.





captured by house photography

◀ COUNTRY TIPIS, SG4 8TH

Situated at Vanstone Park close to Hitchin, Country Tipis not only offers a range of tipis and marquees for hire, it also provides a stunning rural setting for your big day. If you have a location in mind, the team will happily carry out a survey for you to make sure it's suitable for your chosen structure.

You can choose as many tipis as you like for your reception, or you can opt for the Celeste Pole Marquee with its sail-like cloth roof. Both options include woven matted flooring, fairylights and up-lighters throughout, and the tipi also includes chandeliers and a disco ball.



Ceremony licence? No
Contact: 01438 900 269
countrytipis.co.uk

We love... the variety of extras on offer, including a dancefloor, bar, stage, rustic furniture and a fire bowl.



Ceremony licence? No
Contact: 01582 459 216
lutonhoo-walledgarden.co.uk

We love... that the gardens have been used to produce the estate's fruit, veg and cut flowers for nearly two centuries.

▲ THE CONSERVATORY AT LUTON HOO WALLED GARDEN, LU1 4LF

This stunning marquee is situated in the grounds of Luton Hoo Estate's private five-acre Walled Garden. The stylish interior of the venue, with its glazed windows overlooking the gardens, includes a starlight ceiling, atmospheric lighting and an integrated speech and music sound system – a must-have for the big-day speeches and evening party. Outdoors, guests can enjoy drinks and canapés on the decked terrace overlooking the picturesque octagonal garden.

Available all year round, the marquee caters for up to 400 guests for the wedding breakfast and evening reception and the team has an extensive list of recommended suppliers to help take the stress out of the planning.





▲ PARADISE WILDLIFE PARK, EN10 7QA

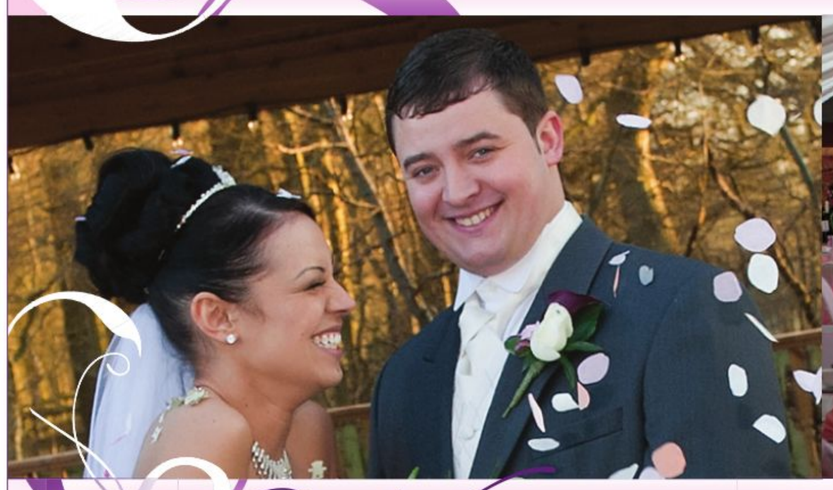
Get your guests talking by tying the knot at Paradise Wildlife Park. The marquee venue can seat 175 for the sit-down meal and up to 200 of your friends and family for the evening party. The Secret Garden can accommodate 150 guests and its red carpet entrance adds a special touch to your day. Local hotel discounts are also on offer for you on the wedding night.

Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 01992 440 494
pwpark.com

We love... that guests can make a weekend of your special day with free access to the wildlife park – brilliant for the kids and grown ups alike!

THE MARQUEE
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Wildlife Weddings

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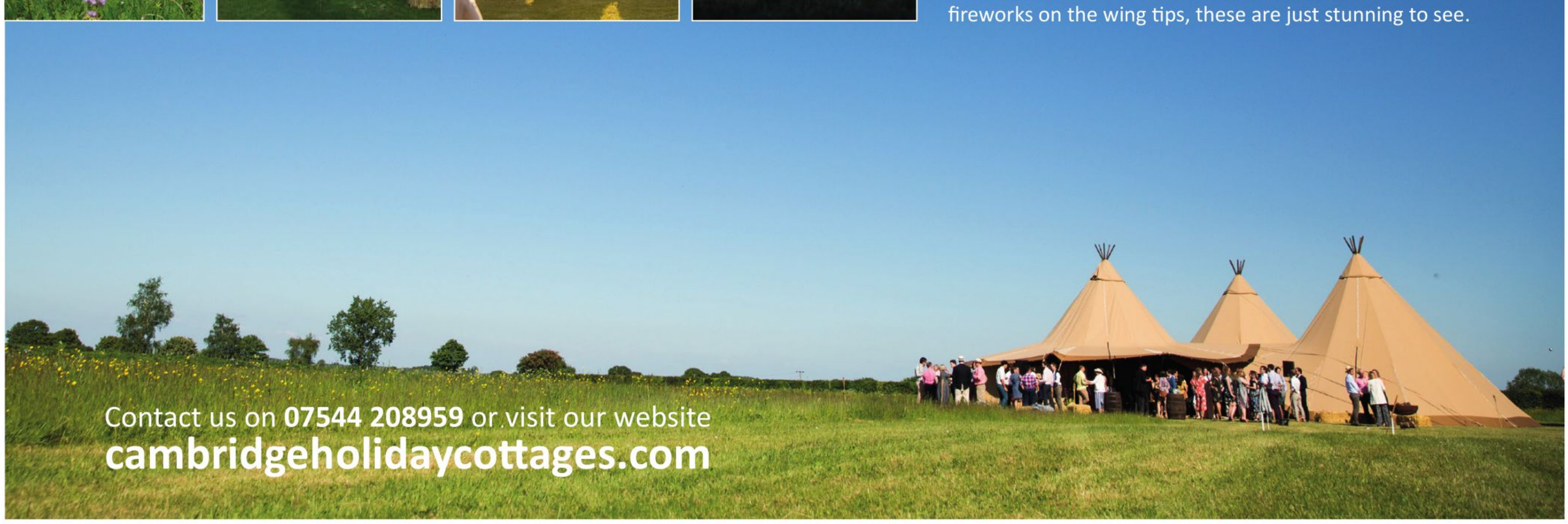

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Read on to find out about the region's biggest must-visit wedding show

Here at County Wedding Magazines and Events HQ we're already looking to our next Signature Wedding Show at The Brentwood Centre – our biggest event here to date, taking place over two days!

Our February event was a huge success, with couples and their friends and family coming from far and wide to visit the fair to meet with more than 100 exhibitors.

From sampling cocktails to tasting ice cream, listening to live musicians and having pictures in the classic cars, it was an exciting day for all who attended.

Looking to September and our next Signature Wedding Show at The Brentwood Centre, I can assure you it is a must-visit for all those planning their big days.

One of the largest shows to be held in the South of England, the event will be taking place over two days, boasting more than 150 exhibitors! A huge range of specialists will be on hand to talk through your planning ideas and requirements, from venues to bridal boutiques, photographers to florists, cake makers and more.

On the day, couples and their entourages can enjoy fashion catwalks of the latest bridal, groom and mother-of-the-bride collections, partake in styling demonstrations and watch live entertainment, all whilst enjoying samples and tasters from our exhibitors. Refreshments are also available to purchase from the on-site café at The Brentwood Centre as well.

What's more, by attending our exhibition couples will benefit from free entry, will receive a goody bag including a copy of a County Wedding Magazine as well as be entered into a competition to win a honeymoon to a luxurious destination.

Psst! The first 100 couples through the door each day will receive a free Wedding Planner Diary.

Danielle x

Danielle Harvey,
managing editor
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CHILDHOOD *sweethearts*

The Priory set the scene for Laura and Dominic's day

Images courtesy of Julia and You Photography

Having known each other since primary school, it's safe to say that Dominic and Laura truly are childhood sweethearts. "We went to different secondary schools and reconnected again when we were 15 and 16 while picking our younger siblings up from school," says Laura. Being in their mid-teens they had many a date walking Laura's family dog in the park, and 16 years later they're still going strong.

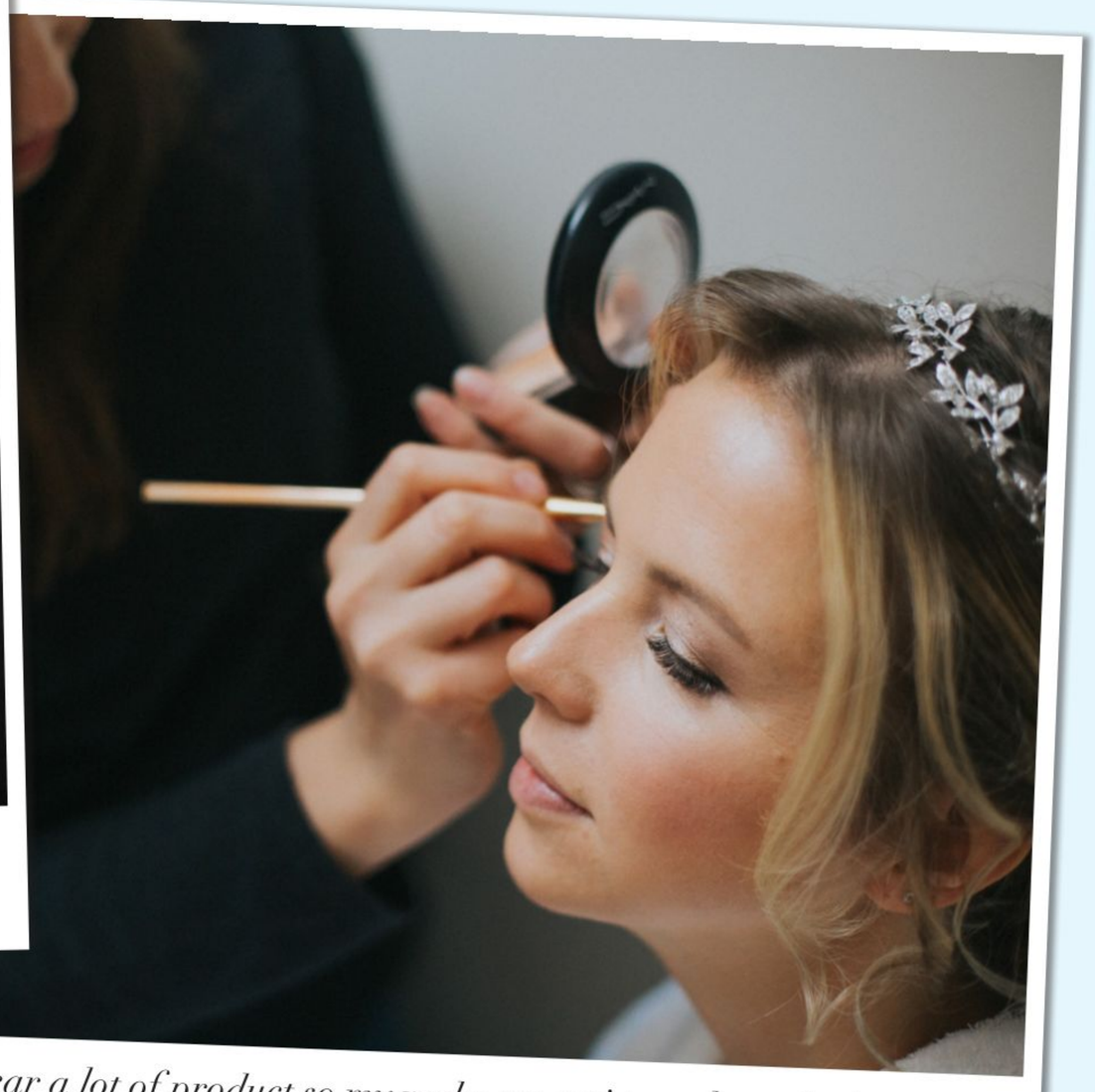
"He proposed to me the day after my 31st birthday. It was a huge surprise because we'd both said that we weren't going to get married anytime soon. Oh how he fooled me!" she says.

Taking around a year to plan, Laura gives us all the gorgeous details from their dream day…

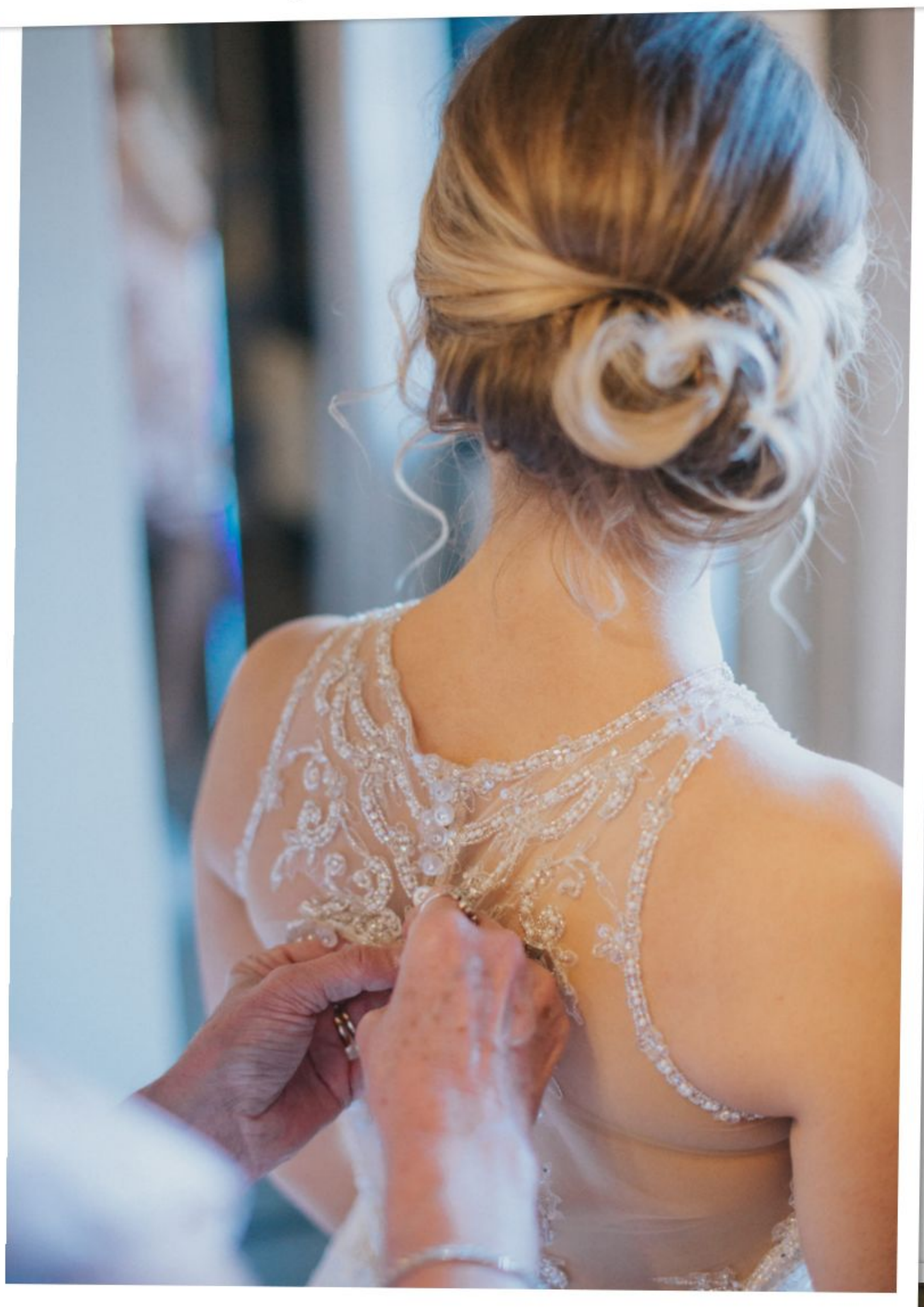
Laura Milligan, 32, married Dominic Finn, 33, at The Priory on 29th October, 2018.



I loved the style of my dress. It fit me in all the right places and I couldn't stop smiling or looking at it in the mirror as I was trying it on.



I don't tend to wear a lot of product so my make-up artist made me look really natural. She made me feel like a million dollars, with simply beautiful results.



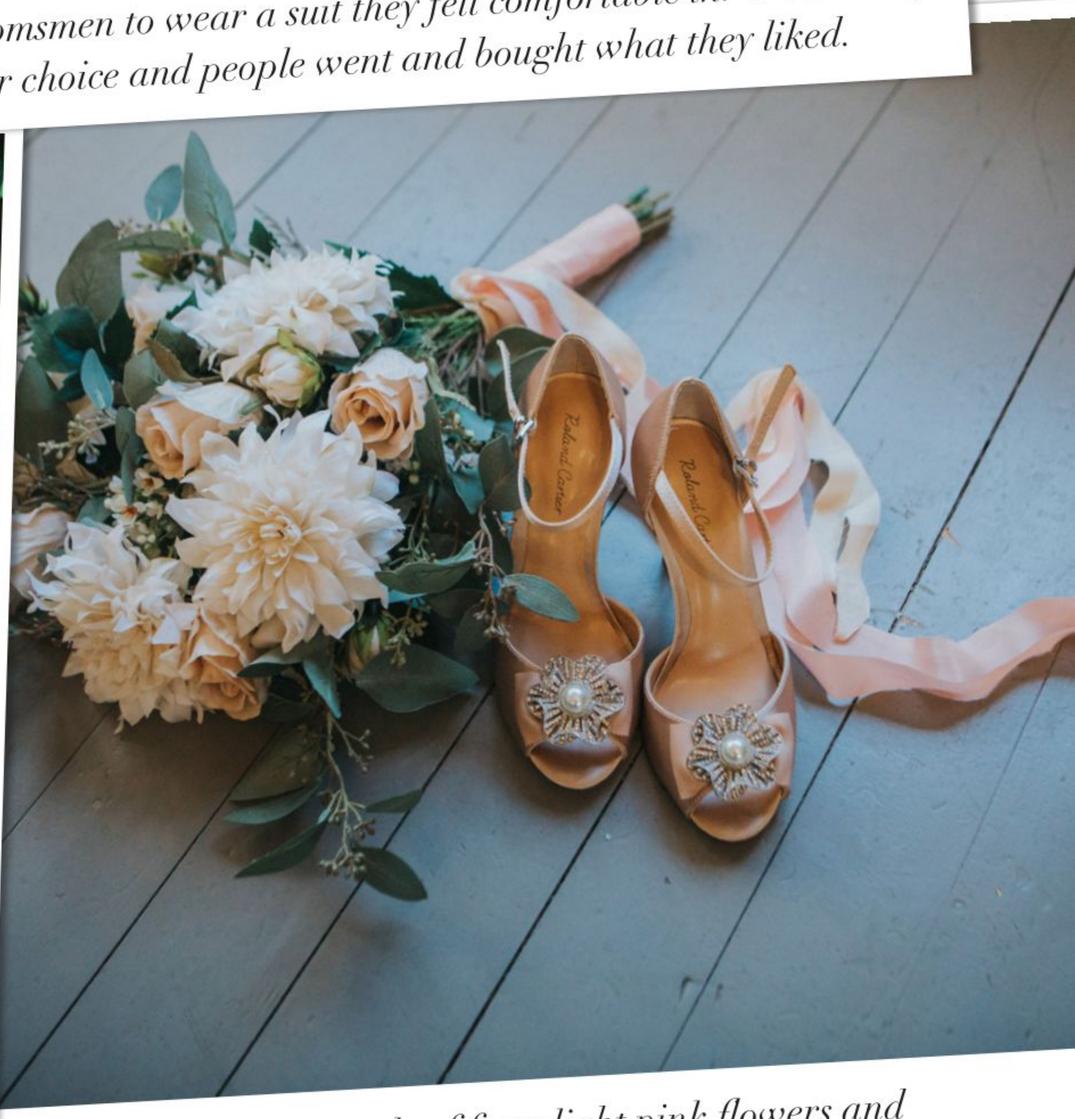
I tried around three hairstyles before settling on the final look. It was an elegant up do that showed the back of my dress perfectly.



Dominic wanted his groomsmen to wear a suit they felt comfortable in. We literally told them our colour choice and people went and bought what they liked.



I fell in love with the space as soon as we opened the barn doors at The Priory. The fairylights that lit up the barn showed its full architectural beauty.



My bouquet was made of faux light pink flowers and green foliage, including eucalyptus leaves. I wanted something that I could keep forever.



For the ceremony we tied foliage bunches to the chairs and church candles surrounded by greenery lined the aisle.





For our centrepieces we had a mix of faux and real foliage rings. In the centre of each was a hurricane glass vase with a tall white candle.



Huge white balloons were used to decorate the barn in areas that looked a little sparse. These were tied with real ivy to complement the rest of the décor.



We stood our table plan on a wooden easel and decorated it with pretty foliage draped over the edges.

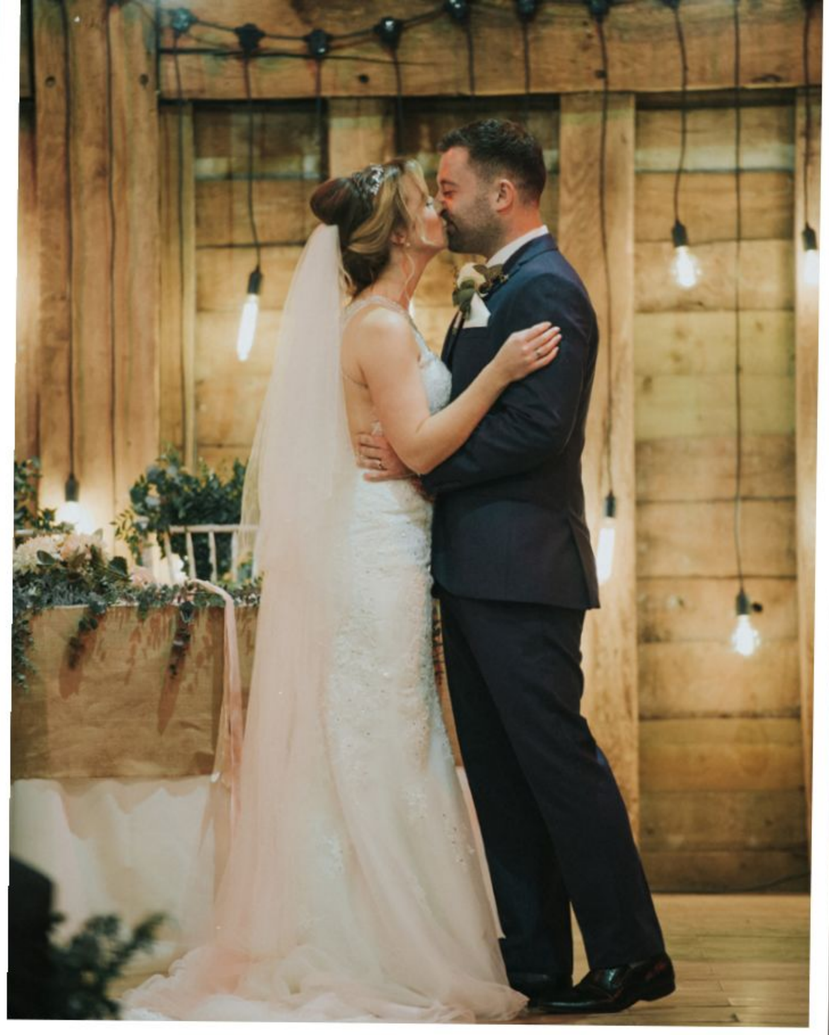


With our theme being based on natural beauty, we opted for a semi-naked cake that was decorated with brushed gold leaf effect. It was delicious!

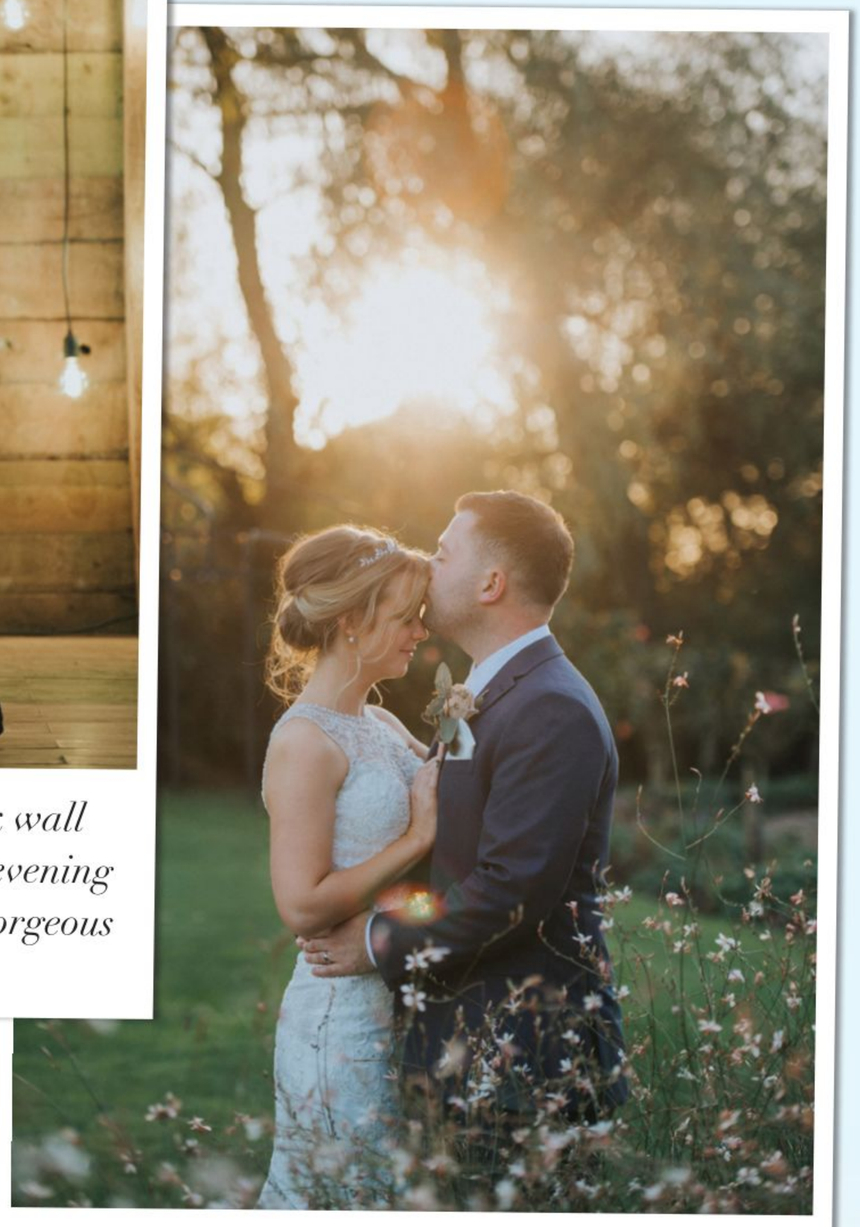
Laura's top tip: Assign roles to people so you can embrace being in the moment rather than having to run around making sure everything's going to plan.



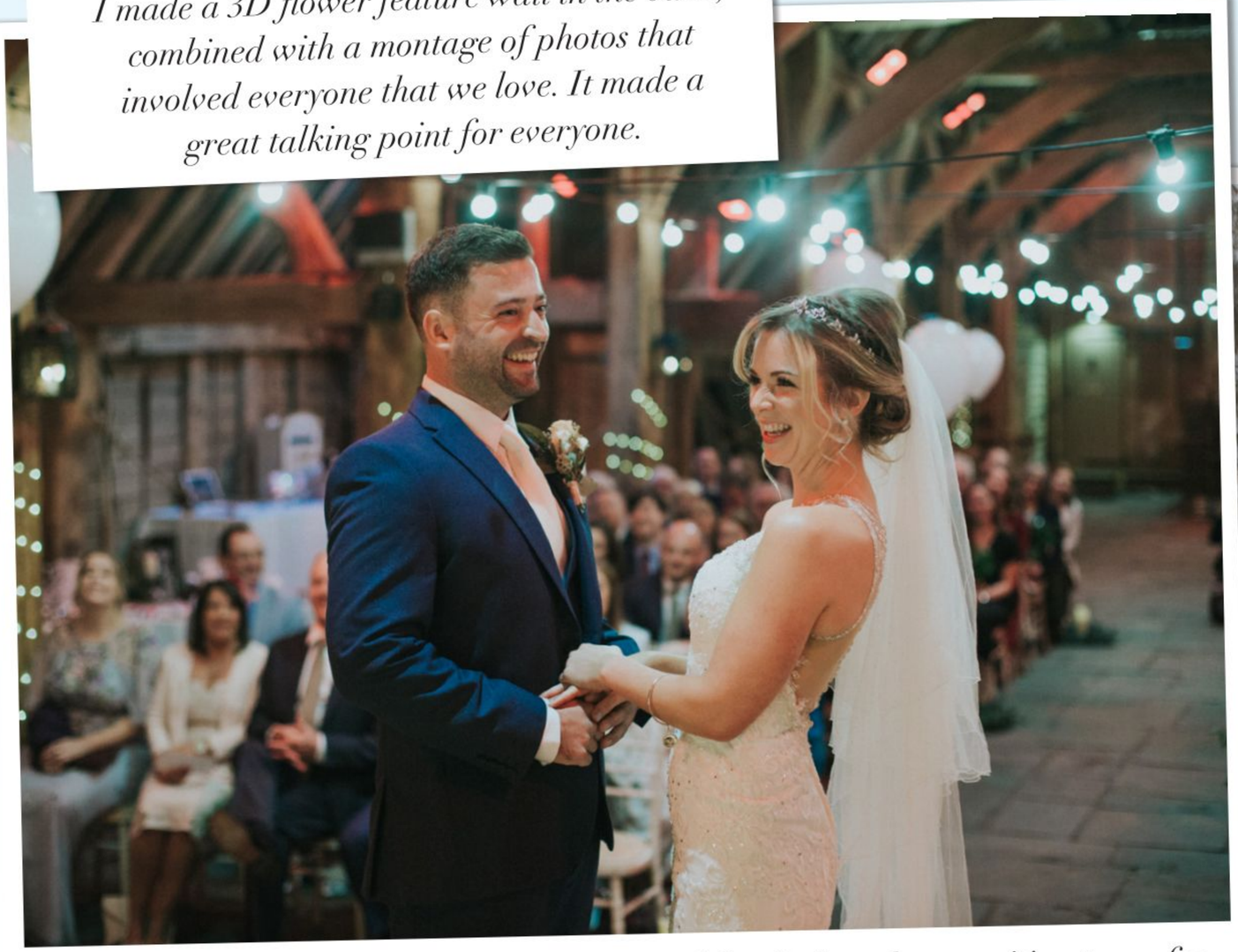
I made a 3D flower feature wall in the barn, combined with a montage of photos that involved everyone that we love. It made a great talking point for everyone.



We hung Edison lighting on the back wall where the stage for our ceremony and evening entertainment was based – it made a gorgeous backdrop.



As the sun set we escaped for a few special photos while our guests partied the night away to the DJ and band set.



Our day was an occasion that our friends and family have been waiting to see for ages. Everyone was genuinely beaming with love and laughter all day.

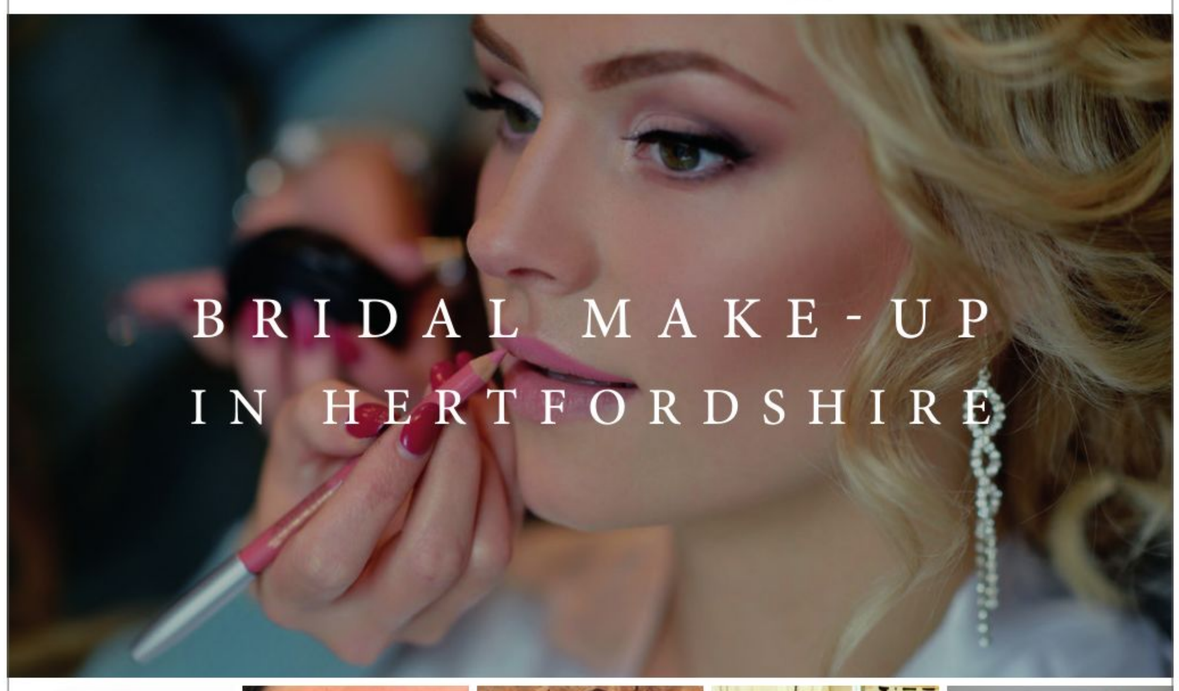


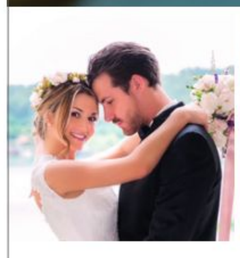
Laura and Dominic's contacts:

Photographer | Julia and You Photography | juliaandyou.com
Venue | The Priory | thepriory.net
Bride's outfit | Forever Bridal | foreverbridaluk.com
Bride's shoes | Dune | dunelondon.com
Groom's and groomsmen's suits | Next | next.co.uk; Jones & Jones Bespoke Tailors | tailors-london.com
Cake | Amber Roisin | instagram.com/amberroisin
Flowers | Natalie Branch Floral Design | nataliebranch.co.uk
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Guest accommodation | Needham House Hotel | needhamhouse.co.uk
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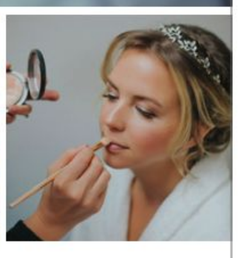
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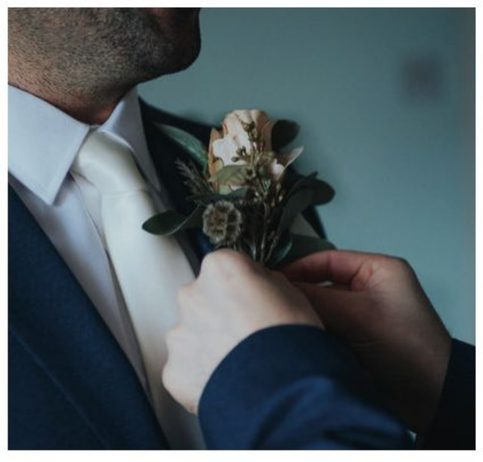
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THE NIGHT *shift*

Jen and Paul celebrated their day with loved ones at Offley Place

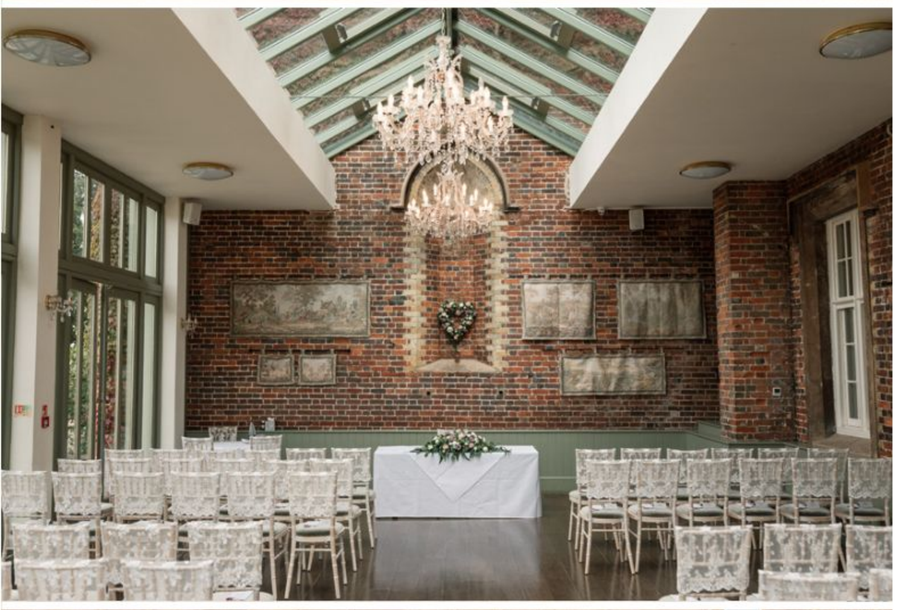
Images courtesy of Becky Harley Photography

Jennifer Fane, 29 married Paul Dunn, 35 at Offley Place Country House Hotel on 8th September, 2018.











Jen's top tip: Don't let the little things bother you. No one will notice on the day, all they want is to see you smiling.

Jen and Paul are both police officers for The Met but with London being so huge, it wasn't until Paul moved to Jen's base that they met. They hit it off straightaway and the following year started dating. "It was Paul's birthday and I found out he was on a night shift so he wasn't celebrating," says Jen. "I took him to Creams Ice Cream Parlour in Uxbridge before his shift. It went really well but we cut it short due to him having to go to work." It was closely followed by a second date that week and the rest, as they say, is history.

A couple of years later a trip to Disneyland Paris proved a magical time for the duo. "It was day one of our short break and as soon as we walked into the park, Paul asked someone to take a photo of us in front of the castle. It was chucking it down with rain and I had my hood up so I didn't notice that he was down on one knee when I was posing!" she says. "It was a complete surprise. We were going to Cuba not long after and my family was convinced that he'd do it then."

THE PERFECT SETTING

Following the proposal, the couple was busy renovating their house so Paul project-managed that and Jen started on the big-day plans. "I've always loved listening to the piano so the pianist was the easiest thing to organise," Jen recalls. However, finding a venue wasn't quite so seamless. "I wanted a blank canvas that could take any colour scheme but Paul wanted something more traditional with character. Thankfully Offley Place offered us both – we loved it," she says. "The staff were incredible. Every time we walked in we were made to feel at home and nothing was too much trouble."

STAND-OUT STYLE

Jen tried on around 10 dresses before finding *the one*. "After trying on a few different styles I knew I wanted something figure hugging. I loved the high neckline and the fact that I could take off the top in the evening," she says. She wore her hair in an elegant up do that was finished with a crystal and pearl hairpiece and opted for natural make-up. "I still wanted to look like me when I walked down the aisle, so I wore a bit more highlighter and opted for brighter eyes. It was perfect."

Jen's sister Annabel, cousin Lily and friends Sian and Beckie, were bridesmaids and wore plum floor-length dresses. "They were ridiculously easy going! It was me who couldn't decide on a colour or style to suit everyone," she says.

Paul, his best man Toby and ushers Justin, Stacy and Conor, all wore navy tails with silver waistcoats and blush cravats. "He knew he wanted that look. He felt the tails made the wedding party stand out from the crowd and I couldn't agree more."

Paul's niece Evelyn and their friends' daughters Poppy and India were flowergirls and Paul's nephew Joseph was a pageboy. "Kids always look cute at weddings and we wanted the girls to have a special role to play," says Jen.

WEDDING WHEELS

A white Rolls Royce Silver Cloud Three was the transport of choice for Jen and her dad while the bridal party travelled in a Daimler DS420. "The chauffer made the journey really special, he was such a friendly guy. We had a nice slow drive to Offley Place to let us catch our breath and got lots of waves from passers-by, which was lovely."

Jen's bouquet was brimming with blush and lilac roses, plum thistles and lots of eucalyptus and green foliage. The bridesmaids carried smaller versions and the flowergirls loved their wands. "We let our florist choose the blooms. I gave her a copy of the stationery so she knew what colours we had and she nailed it," says Jen. Similar blooms were used throughout the venue on the tables, the heart wreath in the conservatory and a ceremony table centrepiece, which was then used on Jen and Paul's love table – an alternative to a traditional top table.

TABLE FOR TWO

The couple chose simple and elegant big-

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day décor. Candelabra were placed on mirror plates and surrounded by bud vases for the centrepieces and the chiavari chairs were adorned with lace hoods. For the favours, individually wrapped personalised chocolates that complemented the colour scheme were shared and the couple made a donation to Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity on behalf of their guests.

"Instead of the traditional top table, we opted for a love table for the two of us. We wanted everyone to feel relaxed and didn't want couples to be split up or feel awkward, which can sometimes happen when you go for a traditional top table," she says.

The stunning three-tier cake creation was decorated with hand-brushed icing and real lace. "Our designer Kimberley unleashed her creative skills and it was beautiful. She even picked up the French lace for the border while she was on holiday – talk about a personal service!" Guests tucked into a selection of sweets and the Krispy Kreme doughnut table was very popular.

THE GUNNERS

Just after the speeches Jen gave Paul a surprise. "He's a dedicated supporter of Arsenal FC so I wrote to the club to ask for a message to give him on the day. I made a small speech, read the letter out and got two Arsenal shirts with DUNN 18 on the back for us both," she says. "One of the best decisions we made was to have alpacas at the wedding. The kids loved them! They were able to feed them carrots and stroke them throughout the reception drinks. We got some great photos and everyone enjoyed them being there."

Throughout the evening guests were given flip flops and blankets so they could enjoy the party in comfort and a DJ filled the dancefloor with a range of Jen and Paul's favourite cheesy tunes.

Jen and Paul chose Becky Harley to capture their big day, with Jen commenting, "I love natural photography and that's what Becky excels in. She's such a lovely bubbly girl and she adds a personal touch to everything that she does.

"We loved our day. Everyone was relaxed and had a good time, which was exactly what we wanted."

































JEN AND PAUL'S CONTACTS:

Photographer | Becky Harley Photography | beckyharleyphotography.co.uk

Venue | Offley Place Country House Hotel | offleyplace.com

Bride's dress and veil | Elizabeth McQueen Bridal | elizabethmcqueen.co.uk

Bride's shoes | Roland Cartier from Debenhams | Debenhams.com

Bride's hair | Hair by Beckie | facebook.com/hairbybeckiesmall

Bridesmaid's dresses | Phase Eight | phase-eight.com; Monsoon | uk.monsoon.co.uk

Groom's and groomsmen's outfits | Waterers Suit Hire | waterers-menswear.co.uk

Rings | Alan Bick | alanbick.co.uk

Cake | Kimberleys Cakes | facebook.com/kimberleybcakes

Flowers | Mrs M Floral | facebook.com/mrsmfloraldesign

Cars | Wedding Cars of Herts | weddingcarsofherts.co.uk

Favours | Great Ormond Street Hospital | gosh.org

Chair covers | Dress it Yourself | dressityourself.co.uk

Stationery | Zazzle | zazzle.co.uk

Alpacas | Yew Tree Alpacas | yewtreealpacas.co.uk

Pianist and DJ | Tall Dog Music | talldogmusic.com

Photo booth | Mr Bowmans | mrbowmans.com

Guest accommodation | Hilton Garden Inn Luton North | hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com;
Offley Place Country House Hotel | offleyplace.com

Videographer | Nowforever Films | nowforeverfilms.co.uk

Drone footage | Paddy of Kent Aerials | facebook.com/kentaerialphotography

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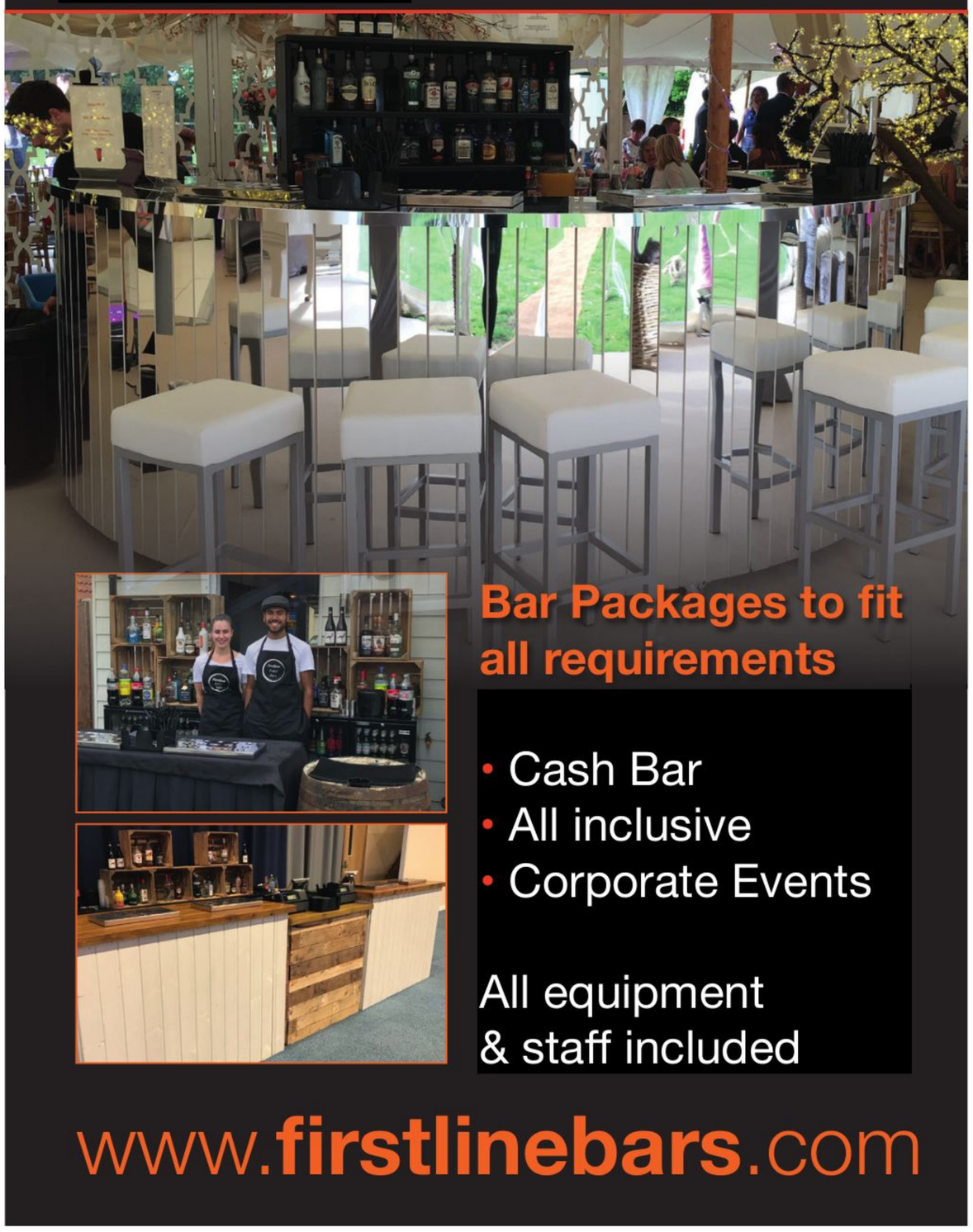
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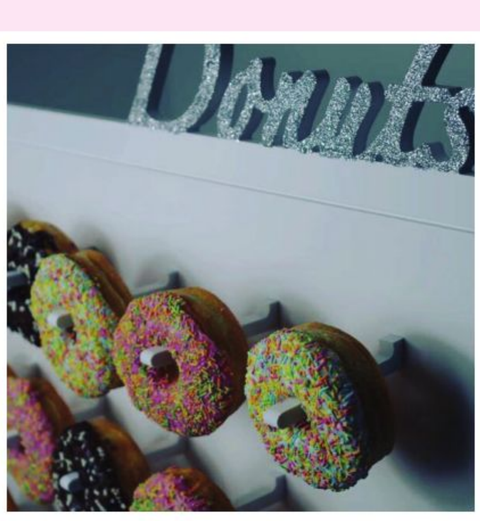
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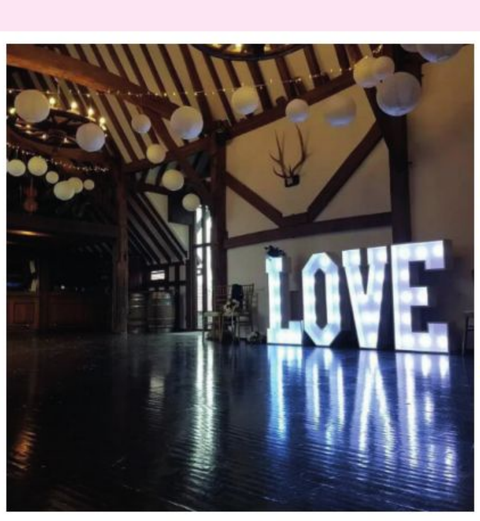
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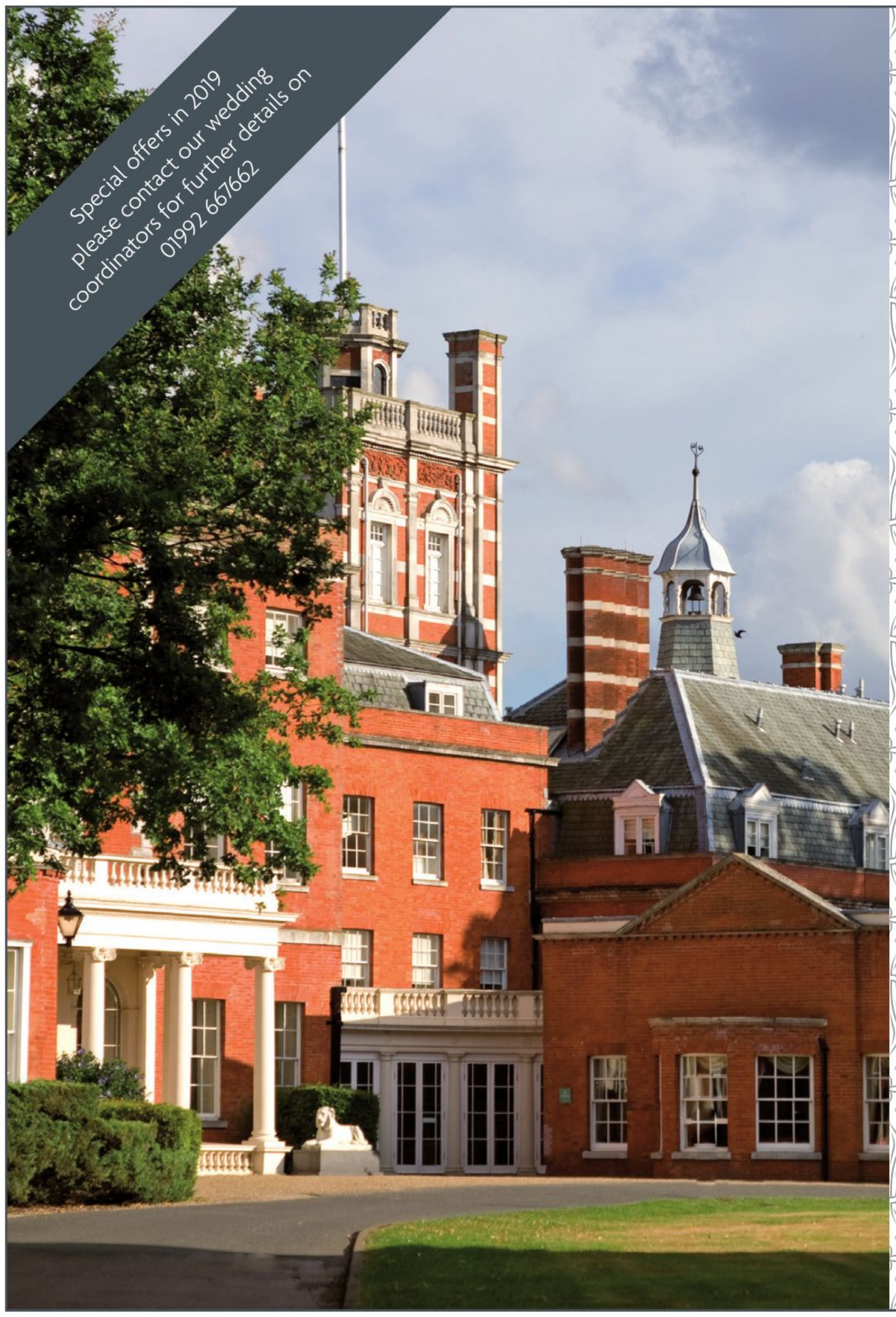






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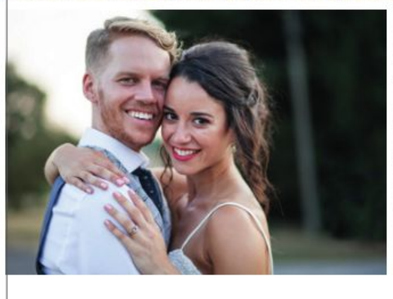



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Becky Kerr
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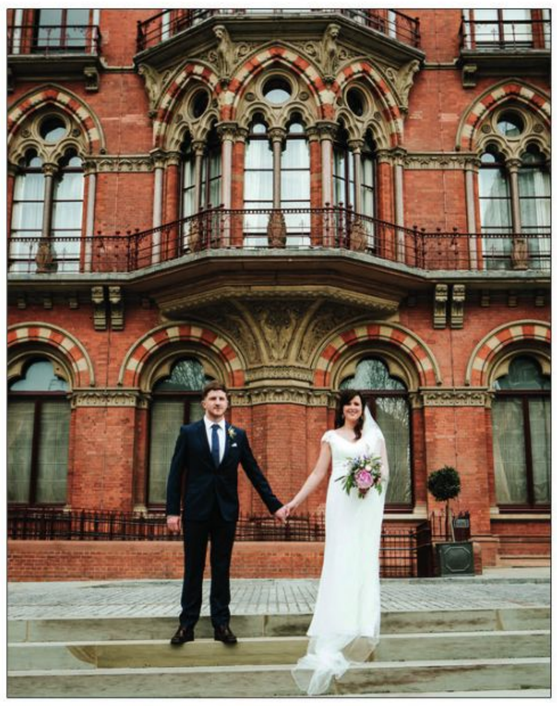


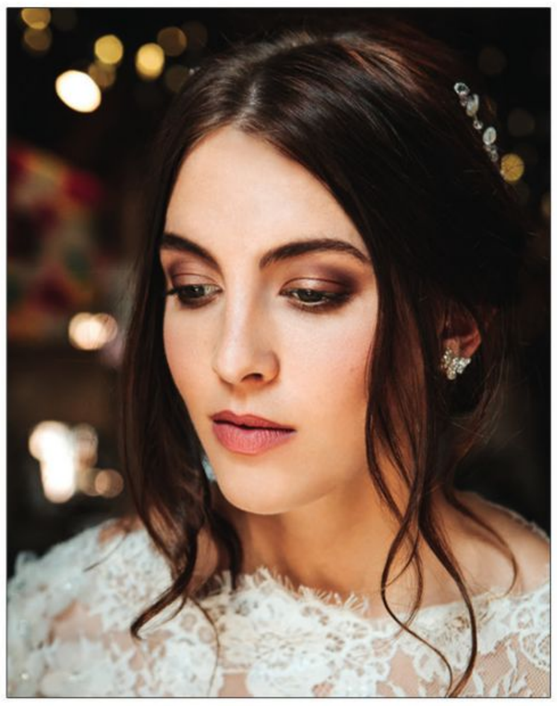


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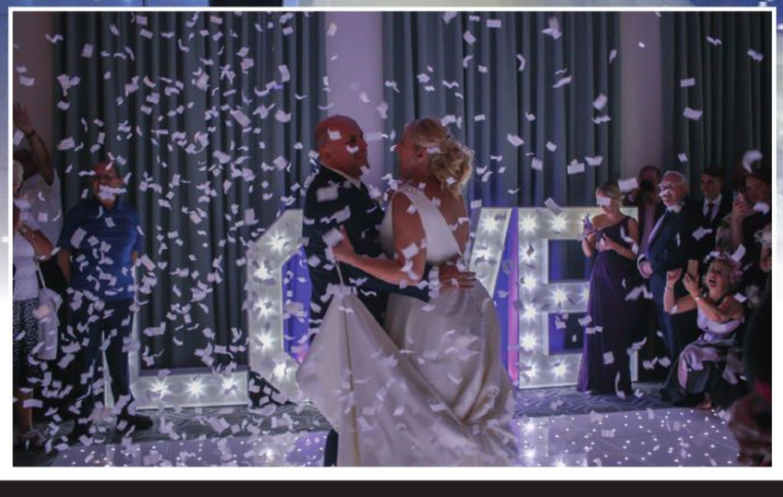
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Jessica Tobert, 30, married Gareth Jarvis, 32, at Milling Barn on 26th July, 2018.

CITY OF *Dreams*

Jessica and Gareth's relaxed day was full of fun, love and laughter

Images courtesy of Becky Kerr Photography

Jessica and Gareth met while working in a bar in Camden. "We're not really 'dating' kind of people so we just hung out with our friends and got to know each other that way," says Jessica.

It was obviously meant to be because it was during a holiday in New York that Gareth popped the question. "It was a crisp winter's morning on Colney Island beach. I thought something was up as he was acting very suspiciously and kept having secretive phone calls with his mum!" she says.

A year later, the big day arrived and here Jessica tells us all about it…

I don't normally wear much make-up. I opted for red lips and slightly more product than usual and I was really happy with the end result – I still looked like me!

I tried on many dresses but for me, finding *the one* wasn't about how it suited my figure, it was about how I felt in it.

Gareth's brothers were his best men. They really enjoyed shopping for outfits. It was a special day out together doing something they wouldn't normally get to do.

We loved Milling Barn. With it being in the middle of fields we knew it'd look beautiful in the summer.

We chose our sisters to be our bridesmaids. They wore light blue floaty dresses with a tie back from Silk Fred.

I wasn't sure what flowers to go for so our florist put together a mock bouquet and I loved it.



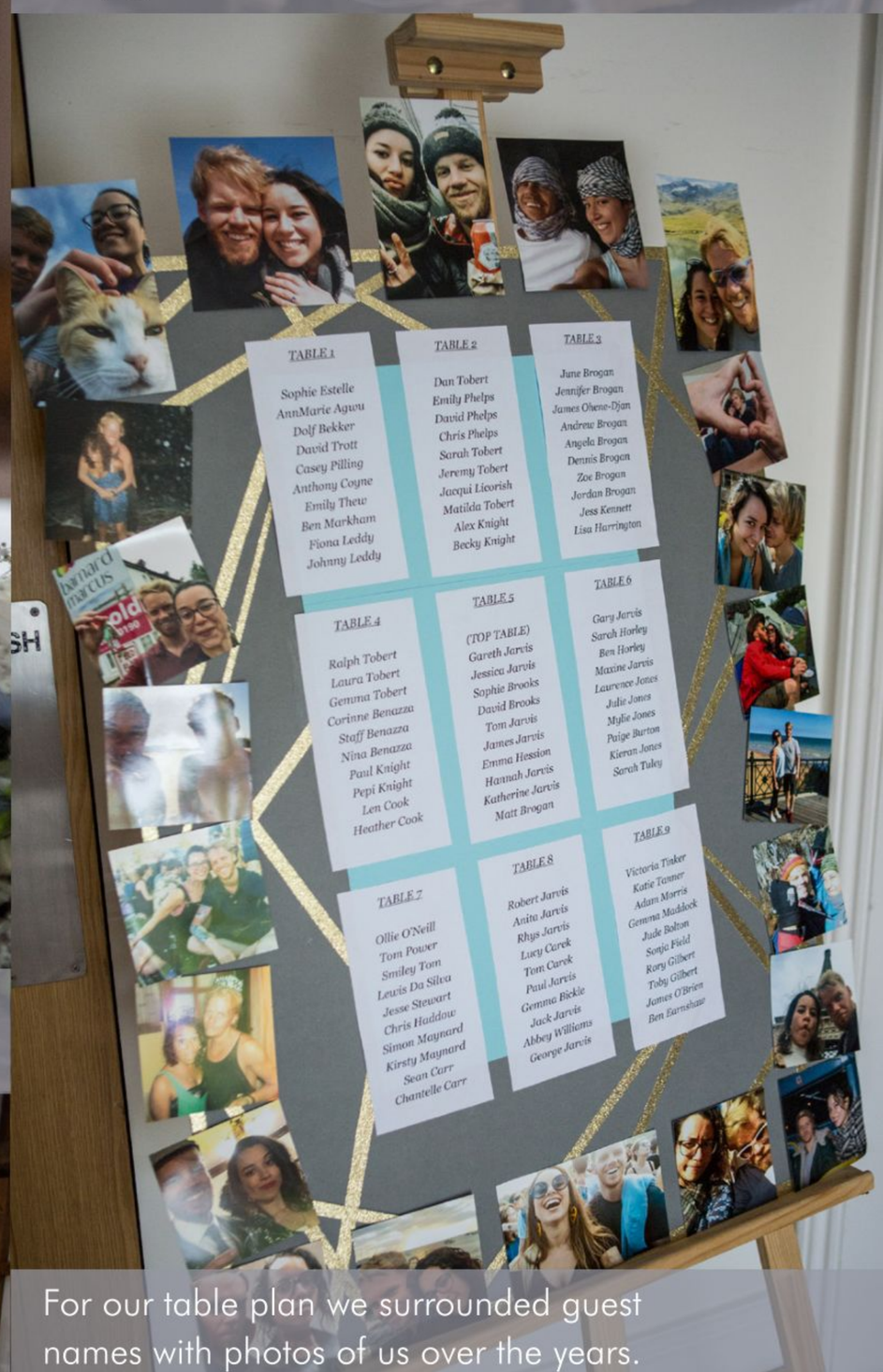
My mum and I picked lavender a few days before, that was then attached to the seats.



For our centrepieces we stood jars filled with gypsophilia on logs surrounded by twinkly fairylights and rose petals.



Our cake looked clean and simple and we dressed the table with the bouquets, logs and fairylights.



For our table plan we surrounded guest names with photos of us over the years.



The room was already beautifully rustic so we opted for understated décor.





We gave guests cones of natural dried petals for our confetti.

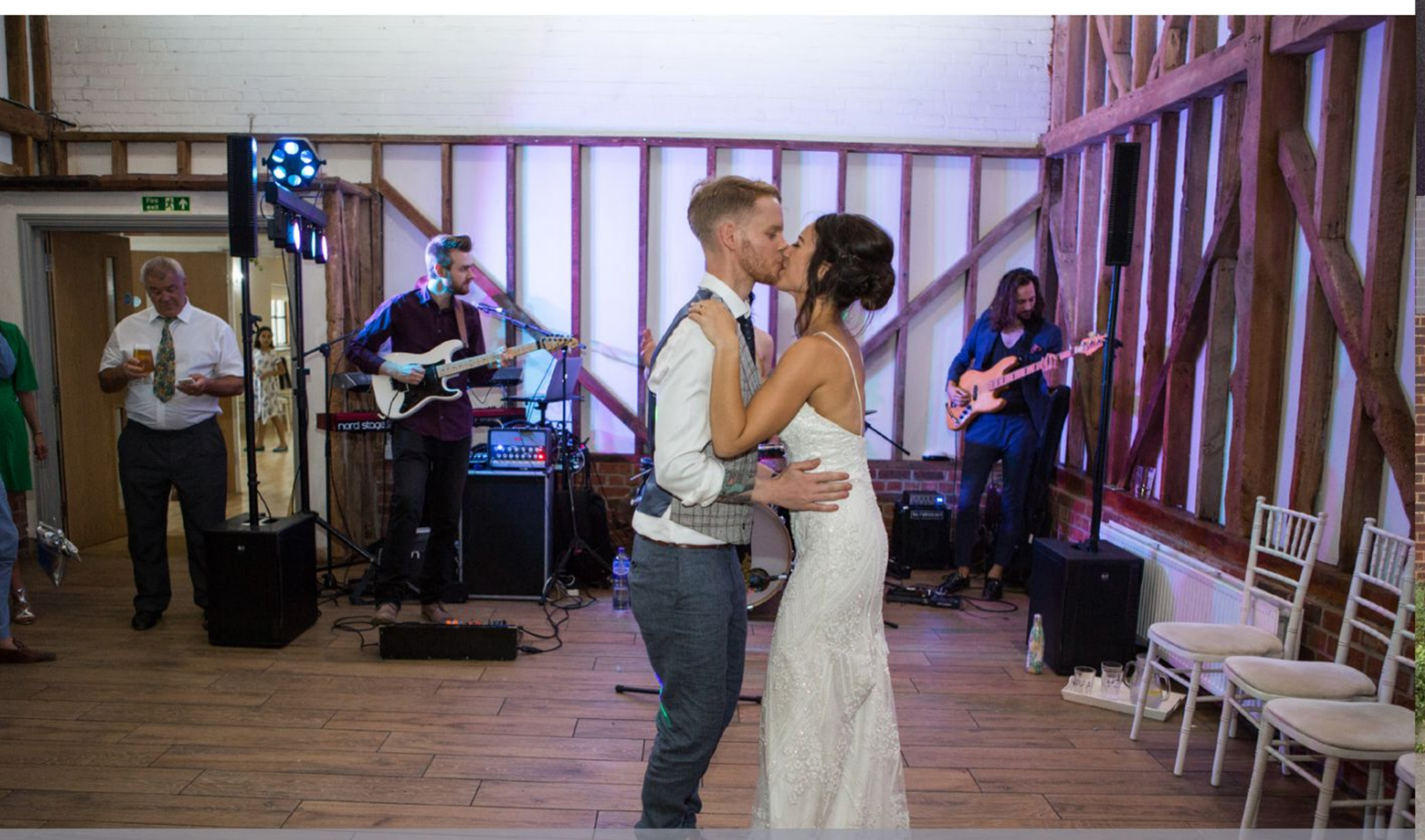


My dad made us a photo booth and we used that to take pictures. It went down a storm with our guests.

Jessica's top tip: Trust your gut. There's a lot of pressure to do what other people want you to do but it's your day, so don't do anything you don't want to do.



Our day flowed so easily. The lack of formalities, fun and laughter made it so special.



Soulshine Band played during the evening party – it was one of the best parts of the day. The lead singer got everyone dancing and on the hottest day of the year, that was no mean feat.



JESSICA AND GARETH'S CONTACTS:

Photographer | Becky Kerr Photograpy | beckykerrphotography.co.uk

Venue | Milling Barn | millingbarn.co.uk

Bride's outfit | Angelica Bridal | angelicabridal.co.uk

Bride's accessories and shoes | Carvela Kurt Geiger | kurtgeiger.com

Bridesmaid's dresses | Silk Fred | silkfred.com

Groom's and groomsmen's outfits | Suit Supply | eu.suitsupply.com

Rings | Ernest Jones | ernestjones.co.uk

Cake | M&S | marksandspencer.com

Flowers | Floral Creations | floralcreationsltd.com

Stationery | Paperchase | paperchase.com

Entertainment | Soulshine Band | soulshineband.co.uk

Bride's hair and make-up | Gaby Dagul | contactout.com/Gaby-Dagul-6277037

Guest accommodation | Cromwell Hotel Stevenage | cromwellstevenage.co.uk

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Hannah Nixon, 29, married Stephen Dunnaway, 31 at South Farm on 15th April, 2018.

HAPPY TEARS

Hannah and Stephen's intimate nuptials were bursting with emotion

Images courtesy of Emma and Ian of Ian Scott Photography











A mutual friend introduced Hannah and Steve. "We met at a go-karting session that was organised by our friend John," recalls Hannah. "Steve almost crashed into me but to this day he still says he saved my life – we have a laugh about it now."

A few days later John arranged an away trip to watch Stevenage Borough FC in the play-off finals and invited Hannah and Steve along for the trip. "I was so nervous around him, which is unlike me! After the game I told John that I fancied Steve and without me knowing John gave him my number and Steve sent me a text. I'll never forget the shock," she says. "Without John's meddling we might never have happened."

The duo hit it off and arranged their first date at a local bar. "It was honestly a bit of a disaster. I was very talkative but Steve was quite shy and reserved," she says. Despite this, there was still clearly a spark, so Hannah asked for a second date, which was more successful!

A HELPING HAND

Five years later Steve proposed. "I'd always joked that I'd give him five years to ask me to marry him and he did just that! We'd gone to Brighton for the weekend to celebrate our anniversary. It was the perfect surprise."

Their day took around a year to organise with the easiest thing to decide on being the venue. "As soon as we arrived at South Farm and saw it beautifully lit up, we both knew it was where we wanted to get married," says Hannah. "The outside ceremony area was our dream and the team was so helpful from the minute we met them and throughout the whole process."

PRINCESS BRIDAL

Hannah's sisters helped with the dress shopping. "I tried on about six designs but nothing stood out. My sister then chose a gown for me to take a look at. I dismissed it until I was made to try it on and when I did, I just burst into tears," she says. "I knew it was *the one*, I felt like a princess and it was so comfortable." Hannah opted for smoky eyes with added sparkle and wore her hair in an elegant up do that was accessorised with a crystal hairpiece and a gorgeous cathedral-length veil.

Hannah's sisters and best friends were bridesmaids and were styled in pastel pink and grey hues. "Finding their dresses was so easy. They all cried when they tried them on – I was so happy they loved them!"

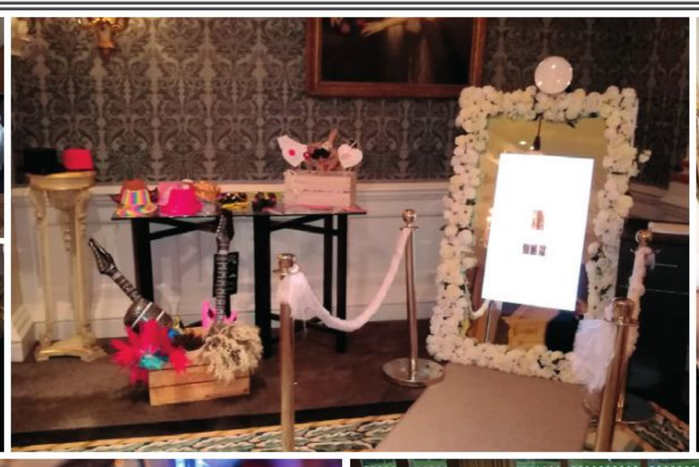
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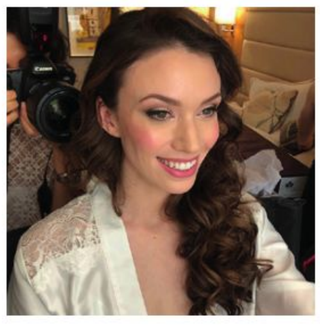
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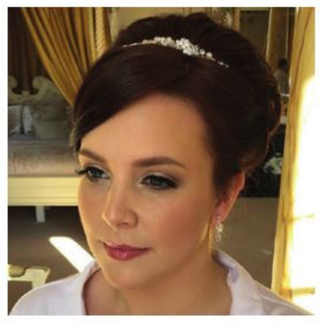


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When it came to the boys, Steve, best man Daniel and ushers Daniel, John and Tom all wore three-piece suits with tails, tweed waistcoats and pink cravats. “Steve really enjoyed looking at the different styles and colours, then trying on various suits. He hadn’t considered tails but he looked great,” she says.

FAVOURITE BLOOMS

The bridal bouquet was brimming with a mixture of cream and pink roses and foliage. “I opted for roses as they’re my favourite flower. The arrangements looked so simple and elegant,” she recalls. Matching blooms were also used on the ceremony table and throughout the venue. “For our centrepieces we filled a selection of jars with flowers and stood them on a round wooden base. We were struggling to decide on what to have on the tables but we saw this idea at a wedding fair and really liked it. The look went well with the rustic surroundings,” Hannah says. Lanterns and fairylights were also used to decorate the barn, which complemented their colour theme perfectly.

EMOTIONAL AND INTIMATE

Hannah and Steve opted for a display of pink, grey and white cupcakes for their showstopper bake. “We loved how it looked and they tasted amazing. We had four different flavours – chocolate, salted caramel, lemon and vanilla. We’ve saved the top tier for our first anniversary!” she says.

A guitarist played throughout the afternoon and a DJ created laughter and filled the dancefloor in the evening. “The guitarist was incredible, our guests loved his songs and his amazing voice!”

The happy couple chose Ian and Emma of Ian Scott Photography to capture their day. “They went above and beyond to create the perfect photos and we felt so comfortable throughout the whole process. We also had a pre-wedding shoot and got some gorgeous pics!”

The celebrations were shared with just 40 of their close friends and family. “We wanted it to be an intimate day and it was. All of our guests were emotional at the ceremony and our photographers said that they’d never seen so many happy tears at a wedding!”

Hannah’s top tip: Don’t stress about the little things. You get to marry your best friend and that’s what’s important.

























HANNAH AND STEPHEN'S CONTACTS:

Photographer | Emma and Ian of Ian Scott Photography | ianscottphotography.co.uk

Venue | South Farm | south-farm.co.uk

Bride's outfit | Curves and Couture | curvesandcouture.co.uk; Roland Cartier for Dune London | dunelondon.com; The Wedding Veil Shop | theweddingveilshop.co.uk

Bridesmaid's dresses | Sexy Her | sexyher.co.uk

Groom's and groomsmen's outfits | HRH Holmes and Son | hrhholmes.co.uk; Barker | barkershoes.com

Rings | Channings | channingsjewellers.com

Cake | Little Cake Kitchen | littlecakekitchen.co.uk

Flowers | Carole Smith | carolesmith.co.uk

Invitations | Adorn Invitations | adorninvitations.co.uk

Entertainment | Martin Newnham | martinnewnham.com; DJ Gary | boogie.pro

Favours | Macmillan Cancer Support | macmillan.org.uk

Bride's hair and make-up | Sarah Catherall | sarahcatherall@me.com

Guest accommodation | South Farm | south-farm.co.uk

Photo mirror | Mirror Image Events | mirrorimageevents.com

Venue styling | Fleur de lace | fleurdelace.co.uk

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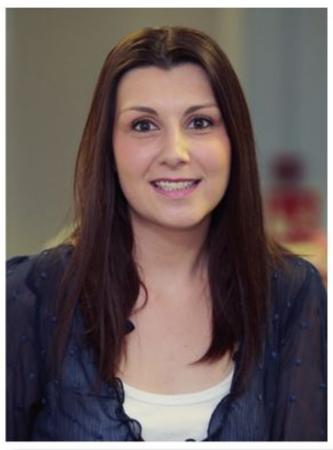


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Danielle Harvey, managing editor
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◀ Easter twig wreath, £16, tch.net – great as the base for a stunning seasonal centrepiece or simply hanging at the entrance to your venue.



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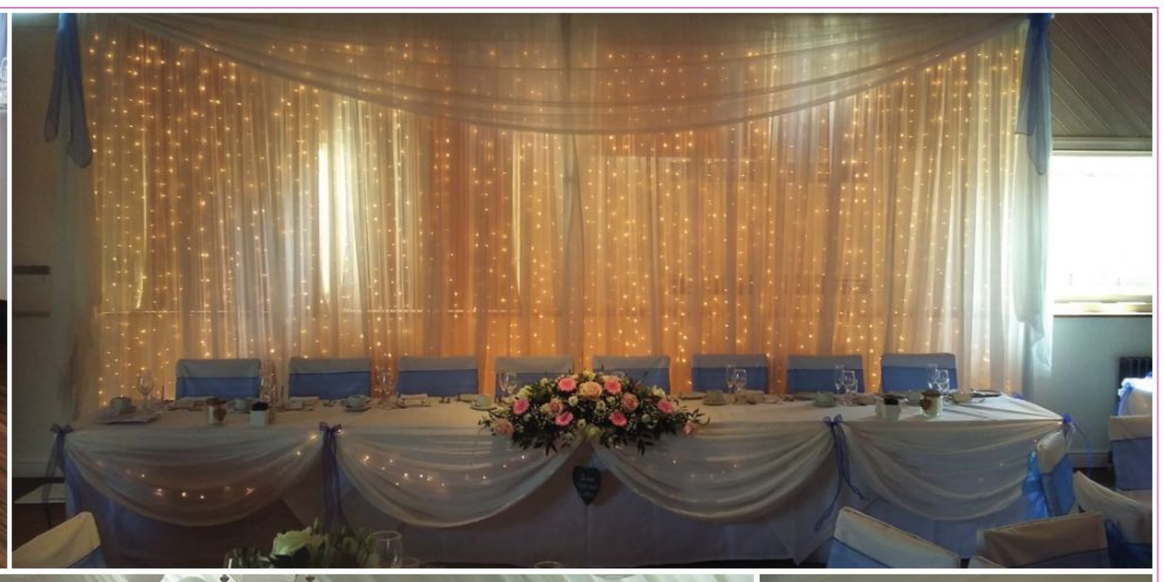
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Create your big-day banquet

You want your guests to be as happy as you are on your day and a big part of that comes down to the food! If you're not already hungry, you will be after reading this! Here local pros share their favourite dishes…



CANAPÉS





Other options:

- ❤ Mini burgers
- ❤ Arancini balls
- ❤ Tempura prawns with garlic aioli
- ❤ Tomato bruschetta
- ❤ Salmon blinis with crème fraiche
- ❤ Halloumi skewers

"Our most popular canapé is still the Cumberland cocktail sausage, honey and wholegrain mustard. Guests crowd around the kitchen door to catch the waiter first. Wild mushroom and parmesan tartlet is also a favourite."
– Richard Shaw, Leafi

▲ *"A popular combination for us is a selection of mini croque monsieur and tiger prawns with sweet chilli dipping sauce." – Laura McGlynn, Kingfisher Caterers*

FOODY FAVOURS

"Chocolates are always a winner for favours. You can get them personalised with the bride and groom's name and wedding date on the pack." – Richard

Other options:

- ❤ Macarons
- ❤ Mini doughnuts
- ❤ Popcorn and sweet cones
- ❤ Mini cupcakes
- ❤ Personalised biscuits
- ❤ Marshmallow lollipops

WEDDING BREAKFAST

DESSERT

Other options:

- ❤ Eton mess
- ❤ Dessert table
- ❤ Crumble topped apple pie
- ❤ Chocolate fondant
- ❤ Mini retro trifles
- ❤ Light fruit salad

"For starter, our roasted vegetable roulade with baba ganoush, parmesan water biscuit and coriander oil is gorgeous. For your main course, you can't go wrong with sirloin of beef, blue cheese dauphinoise, seasonal vegetables, toasted almonds and red wine jus." – Laura

▼

▲

"Our couples tend to go for locally-sourced menu items. They're moving away from a traditional three course meal and mixing it up with canapés to start with a hearty main or hog roast." – Richard

▲

"For dessert we all love a lemon posset and our Belgian chocolate cake with ganache and British strawberries never fails to impress too." – Richard

"A trio of desserts is always nice to serve as it gives your guests a little taste of everything! Our popular trios include sticky toffee pudding with salted caramel sauce, dark chocolate torte with caramelised bananas and passion fruit posset served with coconut shortbread and pineapple compote; and Snickers chocolate brownie with clotted cream, glazed lemon tartlet with raspberries, clotted cream and caramelised hazelnuts and Eton mess with blossom honey and strawberry shortbread." – Laura

◀

Other options:

- ❤ Hearty lamb shank
- ❤ Blade of beef
- ❤ Afternoon tea
- ❤ Roasted sweet red pepper tartlets
- ❤ Poached salmon and spring greens
- ❤ Pork belly



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EVENING PARTY



"There's nothing better than a melting hot toastie during the evening. Our signature dish the Hey Pesto with pesto, chorizo and our special cheese blend is really popular or you could keep it simple with the Feeling Cheesy – heaps of meeting gooey cheese nestled between our herb-infused tiger bread! Yum." – Ashley Skipp, The Horesebox UK

Other options:

- Fish and chips
- Street food
- Barbecue
- Fajita and taco bar
- Woodfired pizza



"Large British cheese boards are on-trend for the evening buffet, served with artisan bread, homemade chutney and bowl food i.e. salmon and fat prawn fish pie." – Richard

TOP TIPPLE



Other options:

- Pimm's and lemonade
- Aperol spritz
- Rhubarb gin with ginger beer
- White wine spritzer
- Mojito
- Bucks Fizz

"Prosecco is still the number one selling sparkling drink. However, Kent-grown wines are on the rise especially since Champagne has bought a slice of the Kent countryside to continue the tradition." – Richard



MORNING AFTER REFRESHMENTS

"Our morning after breakfast includes freshly-squeezed orange juice to replenish any lost sugars from the night before, followed by a golden-brown grilled classic with our special cheese blend and local butcher un-smoked bacon nestled between fresh crusty sourdough bloomer bread infused with our own fresh mixed herbs. The only thing left is to kick back with a proper barista coffee." – Ashley





CONTACT OUR EXPERTS

Ashley Skipp,
thehorseboxuk.com
Laura McGlynn,
kingfishercaterers.co.uk
Richard Shaw, leafi.co.uk

On the seashore

Be inspired by this year's Pantone Colour of the Year Living Coral for a cool coastal theme



Cloud tassel earrings, £25.53, madebyastrid.etsy.com

Coral coloured leather dog lead, £49.95, annabeljames.co.uk





Decadent Decs glitter honeycomb diamond, £6.50, talkingtables.co.uk





Basel small pouch in Congo multi print, £75 and Graphic Congo print luggage tag, £55, tumi.com (launching March 2019)



Stockholm nibble bowl, £ 2.75, sainsburyshome.co.uk



Lobster battery fairylights, £4.99, lights4fun.co.uk



Fox & Ivy Isla creamer, £6, available in Tesco stores nationwide from March, 2019.

Rhum Quina glass perfume bottle, £14.95, rexlondon.com



Simple foliage invitation, £2.50, etsy.com/uk/shop/littlebirdweddings

Arthouse lagoon coral embroidered cushion, £20, brewershome.co.uk





Neon coral tassel basket, £29, bobbyrabbit.co.uk



Bronte by Moon merino lambswool parquet throw blanket, £56.95, hurnandhurn.com

Seaside cushion, £5, direct.asda.com

St Eval large bowl hurricane lantern, £31.50, daisypark.co.uk

Coastal blue personalised wedding invitation, £2.50, etsy.com/uk/shop/littlebirdweddings

Heritage powder blue frame, £6.95, rexlondon.com

Coastal outdoor entertaining
talkingtables.co.uk

Coastal chic

Coral jewellery stand, £26, oliverbonas.com (due March)

Shell flower necklace, £22.50, whitestuff.com

Beach wedding starfish and sand dollar navy blue guestbook, £36.21, zazzle.co.uk

Ice cream and fancy cake wooden board, £12.95, rexlondon.com

Shell bowl, £6 for two, direct.asda.com

Zuiver Cumi side table, £169, cuckooland.com

Polzeath lantern battery fairylights, £6.99, lights4fun.co.uk

Prices correct at time of going to press



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You can settle into Horwood Estate for your whole wedding day in our stunning suites, three bar areas and gorgeous grounds. The venue is licensed to hold both outdoor and indoor civil ceremonies. Whether you choose our beautiful Pytheas Gardens or our traditional Manor Lounge your ceremony will be enchanting.

FUNCTION SUITES

We have fantastic suites which can hold up to 190 guests for your wedding breakfast and up to 250 for the evening celebrations. Your wedding breakfast will be a truly unforgettable dining experience, and the sumptuous meal will be created by our fantastic in-house chefs.

GROUNDS

You and your guests can enjoy drinks and canapés in the delightful rear gardens of Horwood Estate. The beautifully manicured lawns and picturesque ornamental fountain provide the perfect backdrop for your photos.

ACCOMMODATION

In addition, we can offer 185 stunning en-suite bedrooms for your overnight guests. Your guests will also enjoy discounted rates on their accommodation.

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Throughout your plans, you will enjoy the dedicated services of our fabulous wedding co-ordinator who will be on hand to help you plan your dream day.

PACKAGES

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HERE COME the girls

Dress your bridal party to impress

BEAUTIFUL BRIDE







TOP TIPS BY JOANNA SOUTHWELL, BOWEN-DRYDEN COUTURE

How far in advance should I start looking for my dress?
As Bowen Dryden specialise in bespoke wedding dresses we'd recommend that brides-to-be come to us at least a year before the big day. This allows us to design an outfit based on your inspiration, favourite colours, wedding venue and ideal dress shape. A year allows us time to refine the design, have the necessary fittings and create the perfect dress.

How do I know I've found *the one*?
You'll know as soon as we sketch your dress or outfit at the design consultation. This is the first meeting where designer Sharon Bowen-Dryden listens to all your thoughts and ideas. She'll then sketch you a one-off and fully bespoke gown incorporating everything you imagined and more. The design will reflect your personality and no other bride will look the same as you did on your special day.

How many fittings should I have?
Our bespoke outfits need a minimum of three fittings. The first fitting is a full toile, which is a cotton version of the final dress. During the toile fitting we look at the length of the gown or jumpsuit, the overall fit of the garment and then the specifics such as neckline, sleeves and shoulders. After this stage the dress or outfit is made and you'll have your first fitting of the completed dress. From there we tweak anything that needs altering ready for the second fitting.

Are alterations normally included in the cost of the dress?
All boutiques will differ but at Bowen Dryden the price of a bespoke dress includes three fittings.





SAM NEWBY-RICCI, HERITAGE BRIDES, TALKS BOHO BRIDAL

Heritage Brides stocks Willowby by Watters gowns. They range in price from £1150 to £1995.

"So you think you are a boho bride? That's probably the right description for you if you're wearing flat sandals or bare feet and have flowers in your hair. Boho brides are free-spirited and want their wedding to reflect them and not tradition. And this is especially true when it comes to the dress. If it's a relaxed look you're after, Willowby by Watters is the designer for you."

BEST GIRLS











EDITOR SARAH GALLIVAN SHARES WHAT'S HOT RIGHT NOW...

Multiway-wrap dresses – These are perfect for your bridesmaids as they can be styled in lots of different ways to flatter every shape and size. You want your bridal party to feel beautiful and comfortable all day long and these gowns will do just that.

Top tip: Start watching tutorials for different styling options and practice before the big day! The last thing you want is a group of bridesmaids tying themselves in knots and getting flustered.

Separates – This is another option that allows your bridesmaids to wear different looks. Not all of us are lucky enough to boast an hourglass figure so by choosing this option, your best girls will be able to pick the right size for their top and bottom.

Different styles – Consider being totally flexible on styles, allowing your bridesmaids to pick what suits them while having the continuity in the fabric and colour instead.

Colour – If you want to put your bridesmaids in dresses that are every colour of the rainbow then that's what you should do. The look of your day should reflect you and your personality and that's applicable to your bridal party attire too. You could have the same bridesmaid dress in different shades or have your girls in different dresses but keep the colour the same. Both options will look fantastic in your photos.

"The best thing to do is have a fun day where you can enjoy a glass of bubbly with your girls. They can try on a range of different colours and styles, which will help you to then narrow down your options. This also lets you get an idea of what your friends are drawn to." – Sarah

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MOTHER-OF-THE-BRIDE





Bride aside, all eyes will be on the mums so it's important to include her in your bridal party plans. Situated in the heart of Royston, Cream specialises in elegant occasion wear. We caught up with owner Sue Ross for her top tips…









SUE ROSS, CREAM

What designs are popular at the moment?
There's been a swing towards a statement dress with beautiful beading that can be worn with a standout hat. With so many nuptials taking place indoors, a jacket isn't always necessary, especially for spring and summer weddings.

Hat or no hat?
It comes down to personal preference. It's one occasion when the mother-of-the-bride or groom can wear an amazing headpiece but remember it's important that they feel comfortable with the final look so they'll ooze confidence on your day.

Should mums match the bridesmaids?
Generally your mums wouldn't want the same colour as the bridesmaids as they'd blend in too much. Toning or contrast is a better option. Once the bridesmaid's dresses are chosen, they have something to work around.

Should the mother-of-the-bride and groom coordinate?
It's a good idea for the mums to liaise with one another so they don't clash. It's usual for the mother-of-the-bride to choose first, so speaking beforehand makes life easier. We often sell to both mothers and make sure they don't choose the same colour but something that blends well with the bridesmaids.

Are fittings and alterations offered?
At Cream we offer an alteration service that's free of charge and fittings are usually carried out four to six weeks before the wedding. Lingerie can change the look of a garment so it's a good idea to purchase that at the same time and take it to your fitting.

CONTACT OUR EXPERTS

Joanna Southwell, bowendryden.co.uk | Sam Newby-Ricci, heritagebrides.co.uk| Sarah Gallivan, yourhertsbeds.wedding | Sue Ross, creamfashions.com

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Best foot forward

Dune London recently unveiled 16 new ivory satin shoe styles in its Wedding Collection after such high demand for it's previous bridal collection. There are new heel heights, from platforms to flats and a pair of crystal-encrusted sliders ideal for destination weddings. Embellishments include jewelled ribbon ankle ties, decorative sculpted heels studded with rhinestones and pearls, and there's a reworked ivory satin version of the company's 2018 sell-out sandal, the iconic *Loupe* style. There's also matching clutch bags and accessories available, with shoes starting from £99 while accessories start from just £20, visit dunelondon.com

@dune_london



Say it with words

A new jewellery collection has launched from Design Letters that is based on vintage hand-drawn typography by Danish designer Arne Jacobsen. The hand-polished pieces in matte gold plated or sterling silver are a mix of alphabet letters, charms and semi-precious stones that make great bridesmaids' gifts. Why not wear your newly married initial or cluster a few together to spell the word love or wife? Prices start from £12 for semi-precious stones, from £20 for charms and from £25 for letters and chains, designletters.dk

@designletters



Fashion *focus*

Fashion editor Claire Ridley reveals the latest bridal news, buys and launches



EDITOR'S FAVOURITE

These slogan enamel pins, £7 each, can be used to decorate clutch bags, jackets and even dresses, alphabetbags.com

@alphabetbags



Made with Love

Stella McCartney has launched her first bridal collection, Stella McCartney Made with Love. It consists of 17 pieces that reflect her confident, feminine and modern designs. It follows on from the exclusive limited edition Made with Love dress that was launched in June 2018 to celebrate the opening of the new Old Bond Street store and inspired by the wedding reception dress that was designed for the Duchess of Sussex, with its high neck and deep low back. There's seven sleek, elegant wedding dresses, a lace embroidered jumpsuit and a sophisticated ivory tuxedo.

In-store, brides-to-be will receive a bespoke customer experience and as a special touch, each style comes with a blue tag sewn in to each garment featuring a personal message from Stella. Prices start from £675 and dresses will be available in select Stella McCartney stores, Harrods, Net-a-Porter and Selfridges. Visit stellamccartney.com for further information.

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Giselle by Sassi Holford, sassiholford.com

Myla by MiaMia, miamiabridal.co.uk



Woburn skirt and *Oliver* dress by Halfpenny London, halfpennylondon.com



Lexington by Ian Stuart Bride, ianstuart-bride.com



Cara by Caroline Castigliano, carolinecastigliano.com



Lola by Temperley London, temperleylondon.com



Handmade gold-plated headpiece with clay flowers, £295, rachelsokhalbridal.com

Silver crystal bobby pins, £19 (each), franceluxe.com



Sterling silver and white rhodium-plated Swarovski crystal butterfly hair clip, £200, arunaseth.com



Pearl and crystal hair drape, £79, laceandfavour.com

Crowning glory

Choose a showstopping statement hair accessory



Pearl encrusted headband, £26, crown-love.com

Headpiece with pearls and opal crystals, £125, laceandfavour.com



Opal daisy hair pins, £225 (set of seven), emmylondon.com



Freshwater pearl and beaded floral headdress, £395, hermioneharbutt.com





Pearl and crystal comb, from a selection, johnny-loves-rosie.com



Pearl barrette, £5, uk.accessorize.com



Ivory headpiece with iridescent feather trimmings, £260, beverleyedmondsonmillinery.co.uk

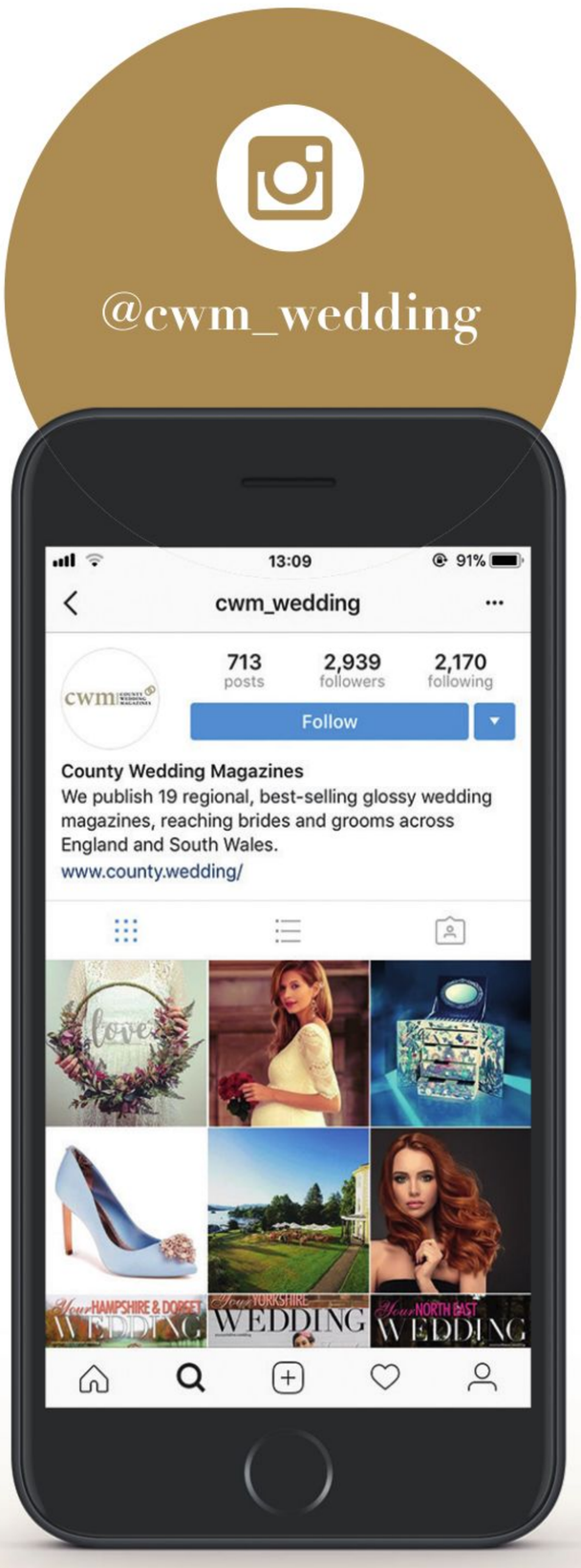


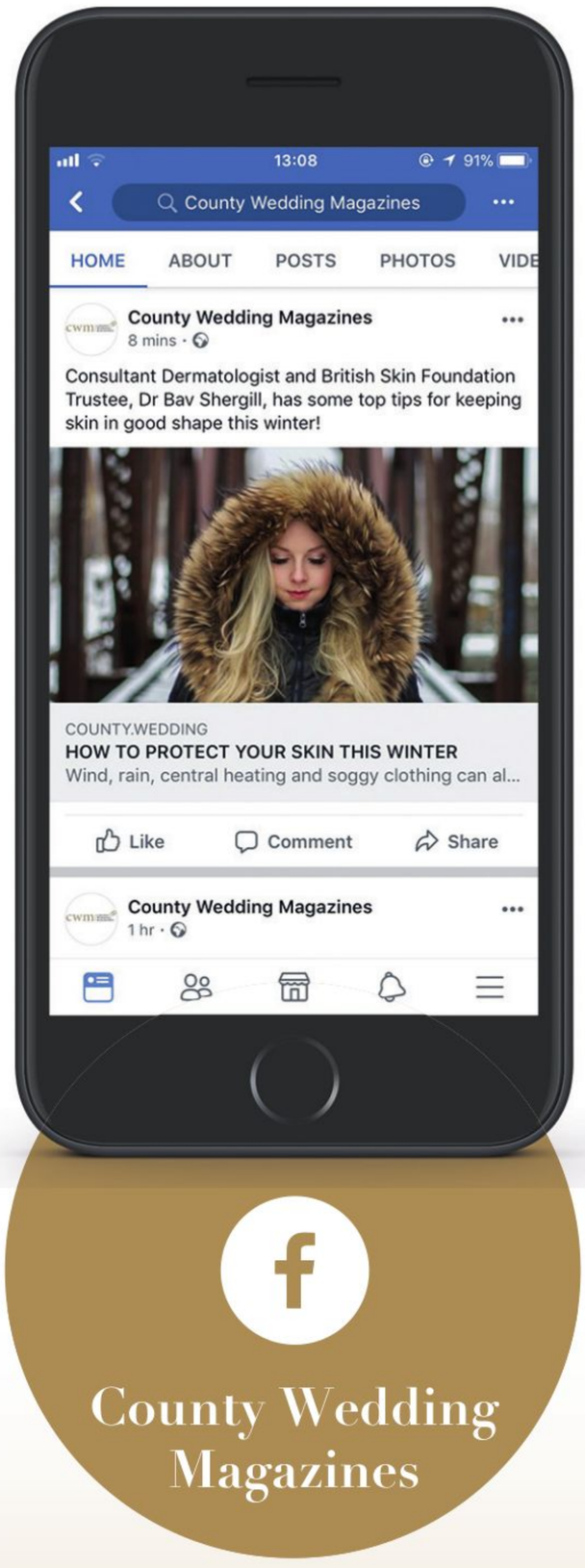
Crystal floral garland, £375, hermioneharbutt.com

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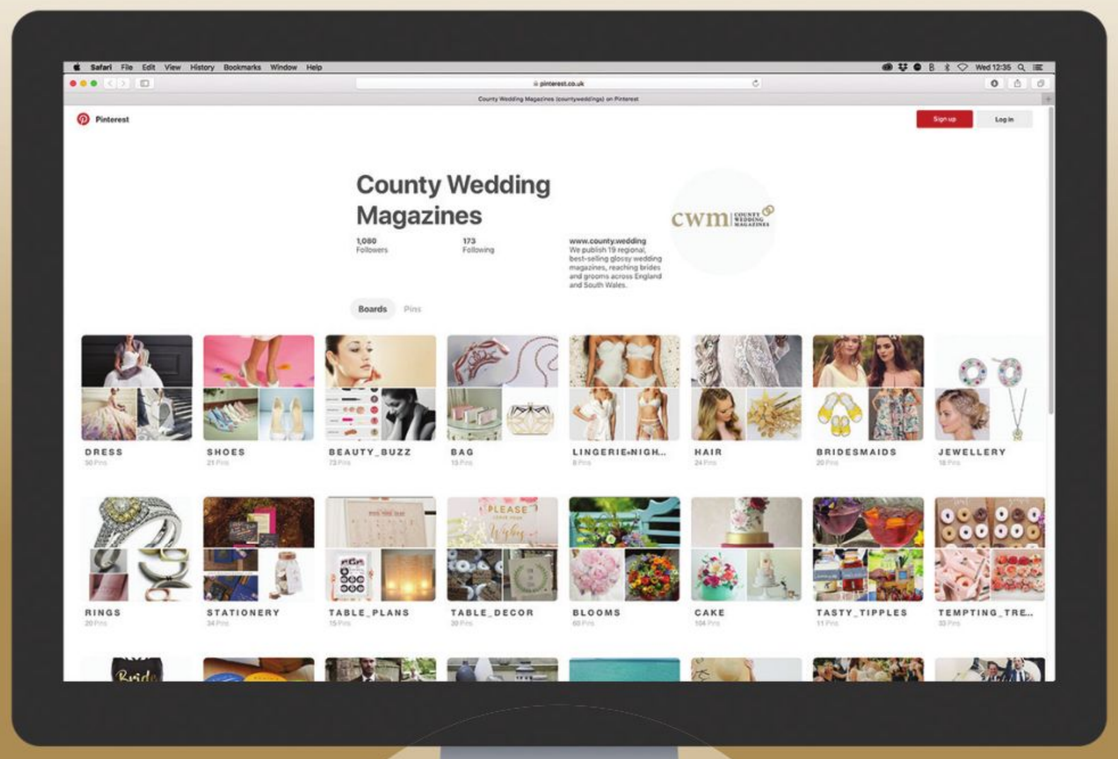
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What's more, our editors are on hand to help brides-to-be with all their planning problems:

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- Top planning tips from the pros
- Tell us about your big day for your chance to appear in the magazine
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© Images courtesy of: Heather Jackson Photography and Lee Allison Photography

Coral and peach

Dress your best girls in these coordinating colours



Coral looks fantastic teamed with pink in a bouquet.



Peach watch, £240, follifollie.com



Peach chiffon dresses, from a selection, kelseyrose.co.uk



Rose gold bangle, £150, uk.pandora.net



Rose gold bag, £40, rubyshoo.com



Peach chiffon dress, £225, frenchconnection.com





Blush jumpsuit, £140, aqaq.com



Coral bead charm, £30, trollbeads.com



Coral halterneck dress, £180, frenchconnection.com



Peach chiffon maxi dress, £70, dorothyperkins.com

Coral patent sandals, £15, hiddenfashion.com



Coral tulle dress, £350, katyakatya.co.uk



COMING UP ROSES

I absolutely love this Pro-Collagen Rose Cleansing Balm from Elemis. A powerful cleanser, it easily dissolves make-up, daily grime and pollutants for a soft and glowing complexion. With the aid of the accompanying luxury cleansing cloth it left my skin feeling completely clean and refreshed, without the sensation of tight dryness you sometimes get with standard cleansers. Not to mention the wonderful scent of 17 varieties of hand-harvested roses, sourced from a small family-owned farm situated deep in the English countryside.

See elemis.com for more information. Priced at £43.



Spring into action

We're putting the winter blues firmly behind us here at County Weddings HQ and starting to feel a spring in our step! For me nothing brings springtime to mind like the fabulous fragrance of beauty botanicals and we have some terrific natural products in this issue's round up for you.

Kelly

Kelly Andrews, beauty editor

Get up and glow

The new Glow Up! Illuminator Drops from Prima Make-up is designed to make you stand out from the crowd. Highly pigmented they truly capture the light, bringing out your favourite features and giving you that perfect bridal glow. We love the four fab shades available to work around your chosen make-up look – dusky, bronze, pearl and gold.

Priced at £9.99. Check out primamakeup.com



Beauty BUZZ

All the latest beauty must-haves for the bride-to-be

BALANCING ACT



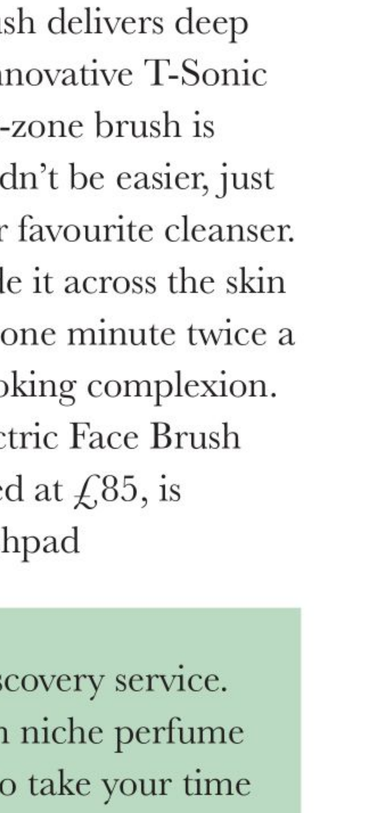
This beauty superhero is a lightweight multi-tasking moisturiser that cleverly treats both oily and dry areas with a texture like pure velvet to balance out the needs of changing skin through the seasons. A dream for those with combination skin.

Temple Spa Moisture To Go Balancing Moisturiser is £36 from templespa.com

BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS

I was lucky enough to put Angela Langford's Bloom & Glow through its paces recently. It didn't leave an oily residue as you may expect but absorbed quickly into the skin leaving it feeling soft, supple and refreshed, with a wonderful fragrance of chia seed and sea buckthorn to calm the senses. Named by the Good Housekeeping Institute as its best facial oil for 2018, this little gem is perfect for sensitive, easily inflamed or skin that's generally out of kilter.

Available from angelalangford.com, priced at £20.50 for 15ml.



Brush it up

This palm-sized face cleanser brush delivers deep yet gentle facial scrubbing with innovative T-Sonic technology. The ergonomic three-zone brush is designed for all skin types. It couldn't be easier, just dampen your face and apply your favourite cleanser. Wet the brush, turn it on and glide it across the skin in circular motions. All it takes is one minute twice a day for a fresh, clear and even-looking complexion.

The FOREO LUNA mini Electric Face Brush Portable Cleanser, currently priced at £85, is available on amazon.co.uk/launchpad

SCENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

Wedding day perfume selection can be a tricky experience. Do you go with your usual signature scent or do you try something different? If the latter, how can you be sure it will suit you? Do you commit to a big expensive bottle? Well, Sniph takes the pressure off and brings the joy back into the experience with its perfume discovery service. It's possible to discover up to 12 scents per year from niche perfume houses around the world in a convenient 8ml size. So take your time and find something new along the way.

Available in three, six and 12-month subscriptions, starting at £40. Check out sniph.co.uk



BATHE IN LUXURY

We've just got wind of some exciting news here at CWM HQ – Urban Apothecary London is launching its Bath & Body Collection in six beautiful scents exclusive to the brand: coconut grove, fig tree, oriental noir, velvet peony, oudh geranium and green lavender. If you're looking to treat yourself to some luxury for your wedding and honeymoon we suggest the hand and body wash. Infused with the highest-grade natural ingredients, they're blended with coconut oil to smooth and moisturise, leaving the skin clean and hydrated.

Priced at £22 and available from urbanapothecarylondon.com

A natural smile



Imagined and created on the Cote d'Azur overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, LEBON is a glamourous, luxury, oral care brand. Free from parabens, SLS, fluoride and titanium dioxide, the products are packed with natural and organic goodness. Ethical ingredients are carefully selected and combined with delicious perfumed natural notes from Grasse. Certified organic aloe vera and green tea naturally help protect gums and prevent tooth decay while the extract of papaya has a powerful natural whitening effect.

Launched for 2019 is the mouthwash, Making Waves, £36 and 25ml travel size collection, ideal for your honeymoon, £29.

Check out lebontoothpaste.co.uk

RESCUE ROLLER



This handbag hero contains lavender and chamomile essential oils blended with coconut oil and helps calm and soothe any reactive, dry areas of skin. If that's not enough, this healing blend of oils soothes minor cuts, grazes and burns. You won't want to leave home without it!

The new Tisserand Aromatherapy Lavender & Chamomile Treatment Roller, priced at £5.95 is available from tisserand.com

Go to bed sleepy head

Made By Coopers is a modern apothecary crafting natural and organic products for your skin and soul. The Sleepy Head Room and Pillow Mist helps to ease you into a blissful night's sleep with its gorgeous blend of lavender, chamomile and frankincense – a powerful combination to de-stress and unwind.

A couple of sprays onto my pillow and I felt the calm instantly wash over me. It's worth a try to help you catch up on some quality sleep in the run up to your wedding.

Available from madebycoopers.com at £15.







Siren's song

Jusbox Perfume takes its inspiration from music genres and icons from over the decades, with the idea that both music and perfume can bring back hidden emotions and memories. I love Siren & Sailors, inspired by London's Camden Town and its most iconic resident Amy Winehouse, paying homage to her sultry vocals and passionate lyrics. This fragrance is a delicious blend of peach, rose, rum absolute, a whisky accord and patchouli.

Available at selfridges.com it's priced at £140 for 78ml.

GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT

Olverum, famous for its iconic bath oil beloved by celebrities and the Royal Family, has launched its first new products in over 80 years! The two body oils both contain alaria esculenta extract to boost the synthesis of collagen and hyaluronic acid, preserving skin's firmness and elasticity. We love the dry oil. Ultra-light and super fine, this lightweight, breathable, therapeutic spray is ideal for on-the-go use. Absorbing almost instantly it rapidly restores the skin's barrier to promote lasting hydration.

Available from olverum.com the Body Oil is priced at £40 and the Dry Body Oil at £36.



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WEDDING WELLNESS

Beauty editor Kelly Andrews brings you her pick of products to help you feel fighting fit for the big day



Delivering delicious, high-quality food, Vibrant Vegan Co. is a sustainable and socially conscious food subscription company that makes healthy meals while tackling the issue of plastic waste. Packaging is either compostable, up-cycled or 100 per cent recyclable. Box selections include lifestyle-matching options such as 'Calorie Controlled', 'Lean Protein' and 'Slow Burning Carbs'. For more information visit vibrantvegan.co.uk



Enjoy the benefits of deep relaxation and calm in the comfort of your own home with the Lava Shells Spa-At-Home Self-Heating Massage Kit. As an extension of your own hand the lava shell works naturally with your muscles, helping to release tensions, stiffness and knots. The set includes five Kokolokahi body and bath oils. £49 from sharedbeautysecrets.com



Made from fermenting green tea, Equinox Kombucha is a tasty drink full of beneficial bacteria, essential acids and B-vitamins to aid gut health and support digestion. Used for centuries as a source of wellbeing, kombucha is known for its various health and beauty boosting properties and thanks to its natural fizz, many drink it as an alternative to alcohol – ideal if you're looking to cut out the booze in the lead up to the wedding.

Equinox's delicious new flavour pink grapefruit and guava is available from Waitrose or equinoxkombucha.com priced at £1.80.

If wedding planning is leaving you wide-awake with thoughts buzzing around your head, your eyes might be giving you away. Try Bea Skin Care Recovery Treatment Eye Mask. Containing skin boosting co-enzyme Q10 with anti-aging collagen, it works to address dehydration and dull skin. £50 for six pairs from bea-skincare.com





The trend for bullet journaling not only has a tremendously practical application for compartmentalising and organising your wedding plans, but is also a tried and tested mindfulness practice. It works by allowing you to get the thoughts racing around in your head, possibly overwhelming you with anxiety, out into the world where they're easier to process.

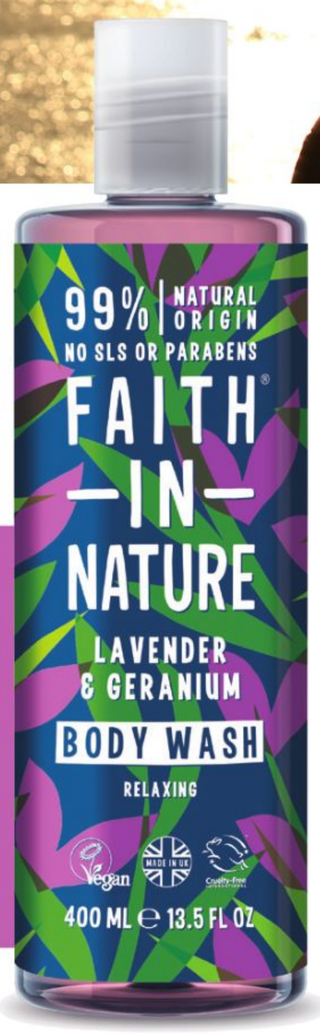
Get yourself started with this fab set from Derwent containing A5 bullet journal, four graphic line makers and pen wrap for £29.99. Check out derwentart.com

If last year was anything to go by you might need to prepare for searing temperatures for your summer wedding. This little gem will be a great help. Incognito Natural Crystal Deodorant has a fresh citrus fragrance attractive to humans but fortunately not to insects! Made from natural ingredients and being environmentally friendly, it's the first alum crystal to be infused with an essential oil. Priced at £4.49 it's available from lessmosquito.com



If your new year's resolution involves exercise and you're ready to hit the gym, you'll need all the support you can get. Check out Adidas' Stronger For It Bra, £49.95, from a statement collection inspired by Stella McCartney. A perfect support system for larger cup sizes, its built-in shape is designed to limit bounce during high intensity workouts. Head over to adidas.co.uk





Established in 1974, Faith in Nature's products are made using the highest quality, naturally derived, cruelty-free, vegan friendly, paraben and SLS-free ingredients, with 100 per cent natural fragrance. The lavender and geranium body wash is packed with essential oils to relax the mind and soothe the body. £5.60 for 400ml from faithinnature.co.uk



Bio-Synergy's Active Woman range is designed especially to meet female nutrition needs. The bundle offers products that are not only made from natural ingredients to help you get in shape and smash your health and fitness goals, but also contains specific nutrients including vitamin D, iron, calcium and folic acid, essential for all women. Check out bio-synergy.uk

WHAT A TREAT!

We put the latest hair treatments through their paces to help you get luscious locks for the big day



Best for...MANAGEABILITY

Philip Kingsley Pomegranate & Cassis Elasticizer, £21, philipkingsley.co.uk

Run yourself a bubble bath, relax and enjoy this luxurious, super-conditioning pre-shampoo treatment. After applying the deliciously pomegranate and cassis scented cream to my wet hair and covering with a plastic shower cap I enjoyed an indulgent 20-minute soak while it worked its magic. After washing off, my hair was easier to style and felt super soft with added bounce and noticeably less frizz. For a more intensive treatment you can even leave it in overnight. ***– Sarah Reeve***

Best for... DRY HAIR

Design.ME Fab.ME Hair Moisturising Mist, £9.95, designmehair.com

This product does everything! My hair can be dry and knotty but this was great for brushing through the tangles. It made my hair feel smooth and stopped that pesky static. I've also become a bit addicted to the scent! ***– Hannah Faulder***





Best for...CURLY HAIR

Shea Moisture Fruit Fusion Masque, £12.99, boots.com

I have thick hair that's impossible to tame, so I was a little skeptical about this product at first. After a week of using it, I'm pleased to say I fell in love. It replenished my hair and made it feel incredibly soft and smooth. I'd definitely recommend this product for thick or damaged hair. ***– Melissa Barker***



Best for... INSTANT HYDRATION

Natura Siberica Vivid Vitamins Spray, available as part of the Rich Repair Hair Kit, £15.99, naturasiberica.co.uk

My hair has always been a bit lack-lustre, so I was excited to try this product and it didn't disappoint. Light enough to avoid looking greasy, this little gem gave my hair a new lease of life and is now one of my firm favourites. ***– Annie Cannock***



Best for...SPLIT ENDS

Alterna Caviar Anti-Aging Restructuring Bond Repair 3-in-1 Sealing Serum, £36, alternacaviarantiaging.com

Thick, long and prone to extreme frizz at the mere hint of rain, my hair is every bride's worst nightmare! But this serum deftly calls the most flyaway hairs to order, leaving a beautifully scented gloss finish in its wake. Better still, the flexible formation mixes with conditioner to make a luxurious repair masque for a longer-lasting effect. ***– Demelza Rayner***

Percy & Reed Perfectly Perfecting Wonder Balm, £18, percyandreed.com

Controlling my fine hair is a constant battle as it's constantly being led astray by the elements, however, this product worked a treat! My hair looked sleek, super-shiny and didn't turn into a frizzball as soon as I set foot out the front door. Most importantly it stayed looking great and under control all day. Love it! ***– Kelly Andrews***

Best for...FRIZZ





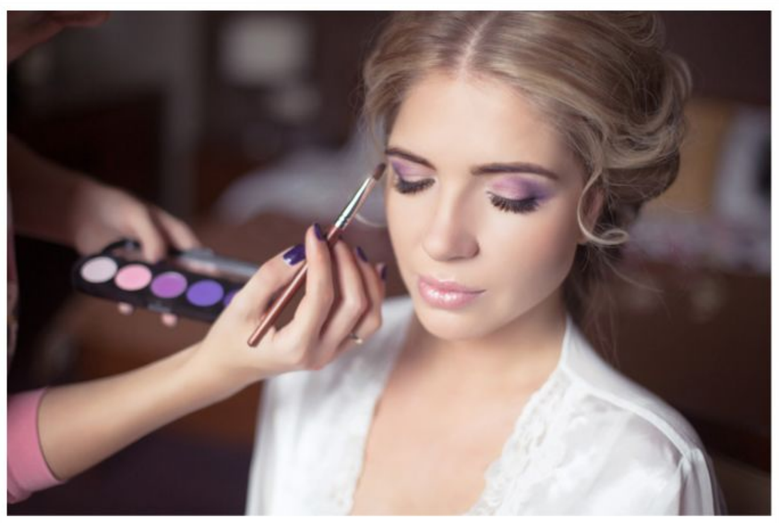
Best for...DAMAGED HAIR

Kerluxe Resplendisse Hair Mask, £46, kerluxe.com

This luxury item is easy to apply – simply add to cleansed, damp hair, the dry areas and ends. You'll find that even after the first application your hair feels soft and frizz-free. Ideally this product is to be applied twice a week and because it doesn't take long to work its magic, it's ideal for time-poor brides-to-be. ***– Claire Ridley***

Hair & beauty Q&A

Inject some springtime colour into your big-day look



BRIGHT EYES

I want to wear an eyeshadow that'll make my blue eyes pop. I always opt for a smoky look so what can I do that's a little different?

Denise says: To create some serious standout eye-popping potential, use vibrant purple shades. Start by applying a deep semi-thick purple liner to the upper lashline. Broaden slightly to a soft point at the outer corner and continue round and along the lower lashline. Next, apply a lighter shade adjacent to the purple and continue under your lower lid. Lightly soften the edges of both shades on the lower lashline by lightly blending together. Add dark purple liner and complete the look with a thick coat of very black mascara and well-defined brows. For a more understated look, use a deep lilac and very lightly soften and blend the colour around the whole eye with a cotton bud.

Denise Lilley
Make-up artist

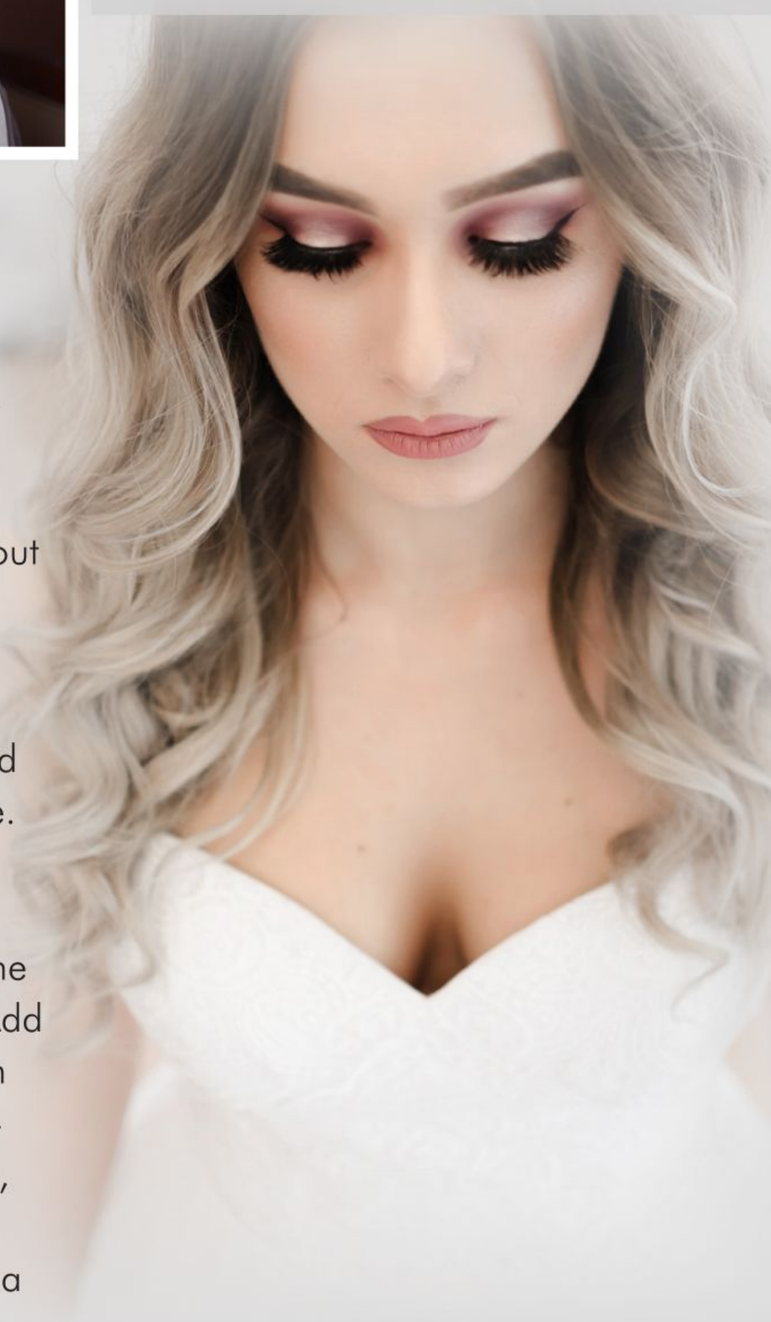
PERFECT POUT

I usually wear a nude lip colour but I want something different for our big day. What shades would you suggest?

Jo says: If you want to steer away from nude but still want to look like you, soft pink's a great choice. It'll balance out the make-up beautifully to give a classic look. Try a shade such as Charlotte Tilbury's Matte Revolution lipstick in Amazing Grace or a tawny pink from MAC called Twig. For something more eye-catching, Nars Power Matte lipstick in Save the Queen will work on all complexions giving the lips a little extra kick.

Another idea is to try bold, deeper shades. On-trend for 2019, are rich berry tones and bright reds. Bobbi Brown's Luxe Liquid Lip in Wild Orchid will give a deep plum, high shine look that'll last for hours. Or, opt for a stunning red-carpet red. Try MAC's Russian Red for some Hollywood glam. If you're going for this look, keep the focus on the lips by leaving the skin dewy and natural with a soft focus, understated eye.

Jo Saville
Make-up artist



W-DAY HIGHLIGHTS

I want to walk down the aisle with a new 'do'. I'm currently a brunette and fancy a colour change. What ideas do you have that won't feel too drastic?

Amy says: Changing your colour can alter a whole look so I'd suggest keeping it subtle. With glossy brunette hair the best changes are either caramel highlights or balayage. The great thing with these looks is that when you create your style you'll see more of the detail as the different shades will show. If you're not sure which option to choose, highlights will be more noticeable if you fancy lightening all of your hair and balayage is a more natural change that's low maintenance as the colour is just on the mid-lengths and ends. You want your 'do' to look healthy and either colour option will create a noticeable change whilst keeping it in excellent condition.

Amy Tidey
Bridal hair expert

CONTACT THE EXPERT

Amy Tidey, hairbyamytidey.co.uk, Denise Lilley, deniselilleymakeup.co.uk
Jo Saville, josaville.com



A flair FOR HAIR

Join us as we sit down with celebrity hair stylist Earl Simms to find out how to achieve the ultimate in good hair days

Having begun his session career in London in the 1990s, Earl Simms is now a widely respected international celebrity hair stylist working between London and New York. Constantly in demand with the world's top celebrities, he travels the globe further establishing his reputation, as well as being globally recognised by brands and clients for his talent and creativity. Earl's trademark is to make hair look young, fresh and modern, transforming any hairstyle and bringing clients' visions to life.

Now, in his latest role as brand ambassador for luxury haircare brand, Kèrluxe, Earl gives his expert advice on trends, styling and vital dos and don'ts. Our beauty editor, Kelly Andrews, caught up with the haircare hero to talk style for the aisle.

How did you get to where you are now? What inspired you to be a hairdresser?

Being a hairstylist really appealed to me from a young age, I got my first job in a salon making teas and sweeping floors. Things progressed and before I knew it I was offered a job in Florence for two years working in a salon there. I gained some amazing experience and I'd say taking risks like moving to Italy is one of the reasons I'm where I am now, as well as a lot of hard work and being recommended by people I've met in the industry along the way.

I love that I get to travel the world, meet so many different people from different backgrounds with different hair types and no day is ever the same.

What hair products or tools can't you live without?

The Kèrluxe range is different in the fact that it focuses on scalp health as opposed to just the hair. It's so important that we treat our scalp with the same careful attention that we do our face – healthy skin equals healthy hair. Personally, for me, the hero products are the Caviar4 Hair Serum Elixir and the Multi-Tasking 360° Luxury Hair Styling Cream.

What's your top bridal hair trend for 2019?

I'd say a natural relaxed hairstyle. Brides need to look and feel like themselves, so the style should make them feel relaxed and confident.

You've styled Emilia Clarke, Sienna Miller, Carey Mulligan, Jenna Coleman, Victoria Beckham and Beyoncé to name a few. What's been your favourite celebrity style creation?

I'd have to say the messy disheveled look with Sienna Miller. She'd just cut her hair into a bob and we added some loose waves, messing it up a little. People still refer to that look three years later!

What styles are the celebrities asking for right now and is it possible to translate this into a wedding look for an extra stylish edge?

People love the messy bun, but to translate this into a wedding style you just need to polish it a little more. Create texture in the hair, but keep it neat.

What are your top five tops for gorgeous hair that every bride-to-be should know?

- Use a hair mask to keep the hair looking healthy and glossy.
- Try to refrain from using heat in the lead up to the big day.
- Sleep on a silk pillowcase to minimise hair breakage.
- Wash out all shampoo and conditioner thoroughly, to protect the scalp.
- When brushing or combing, start from the ends and work up to the root. People make the common mistake of brushing down the hair, but this can cause the hair to break.



For more information check out kerluxe.com



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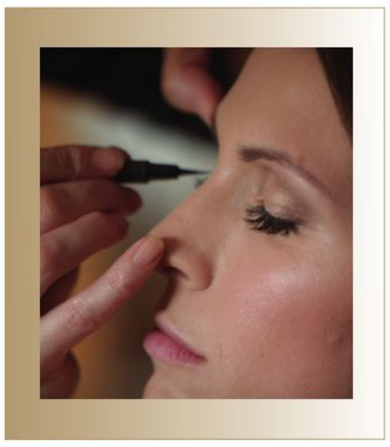
Denise Lilley



Professional Session
Make-up Artist &
Hair Stylist



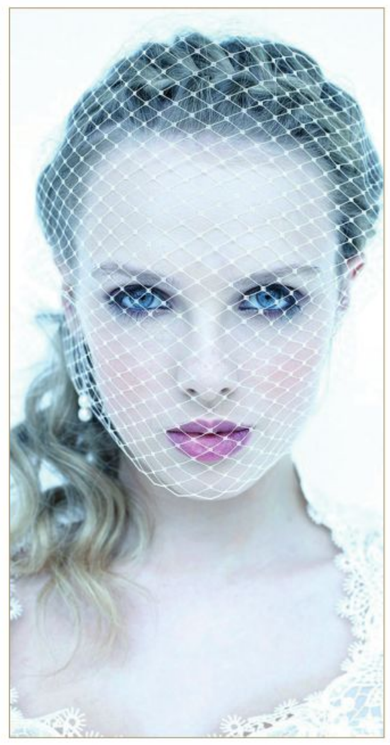
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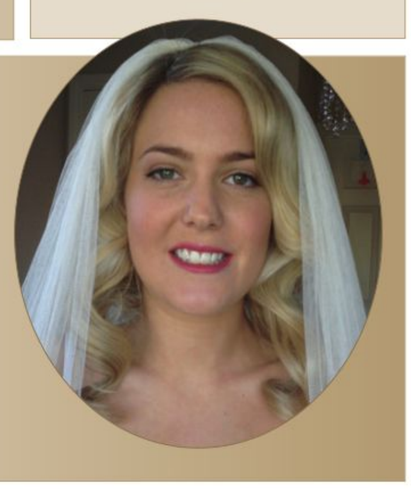
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Denise Lilley
Celebrity
Make-up Artist
&
Hair Stylist



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over 20 years

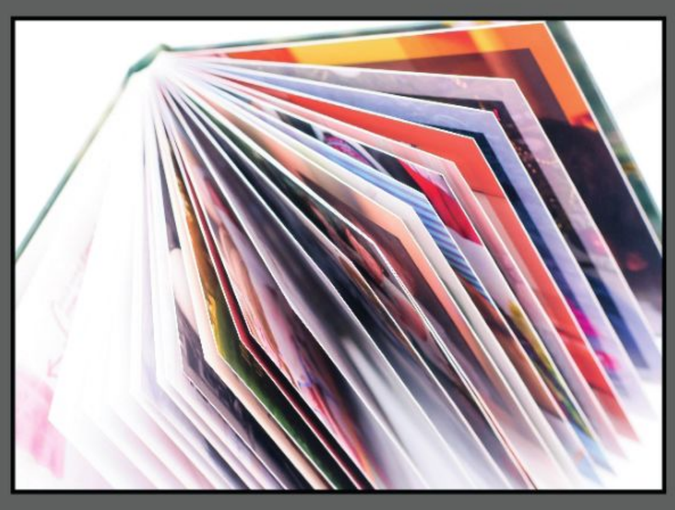


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Shimmering STYLE

Richard James, known for traditional Savile Row bespoke tailoring and modern British ready-to-wear menswear, has released new crystallised dinner jackets.

The Crystallised Navy Shantung Silk suit (£855) and the Crystallised Ivory Shawl Collar dinner jacket (£1,425) are available through Selfridges only and are made-to-order in sizes 36-46 (with a two-week turnaround time).

From slim, waisted modern cuts to softer relaxed tailoring Richard James suits are flattering on any frame for every occasion.

Visit selfridges.com/Richard-James



MAN OF STEEL

Victorinox, inventor of the legendary Original Swiss Army Knife surprises with a new masterpiece in its innovation pipeline.

Distinctive and cool, STEEL is the new Victorinox signature scent created for the modern man.

Vigorous and refreshing bursts of aquatic accords blend with viola leaves, while lavender and vibrant cedarwood create a compelling scent perfect for grooms on the their big day.

Swiss Army STEEL for men is £50, for 100ml, and stocked at victorinox.com

Smoothed and renewed

Feel like the winter weather has taken its toll on your skin? Ensure you're big-day ready with three new hydration champions from Clarins that will intensely moisturise and strengthen your skin.

All are made from the new Hydra Resist Phyto Complex which combines two plant extracts selected for their super-hydrating ability, integrated with the ClarinsMen Complex with a blend of gymnema and bison grass extract.

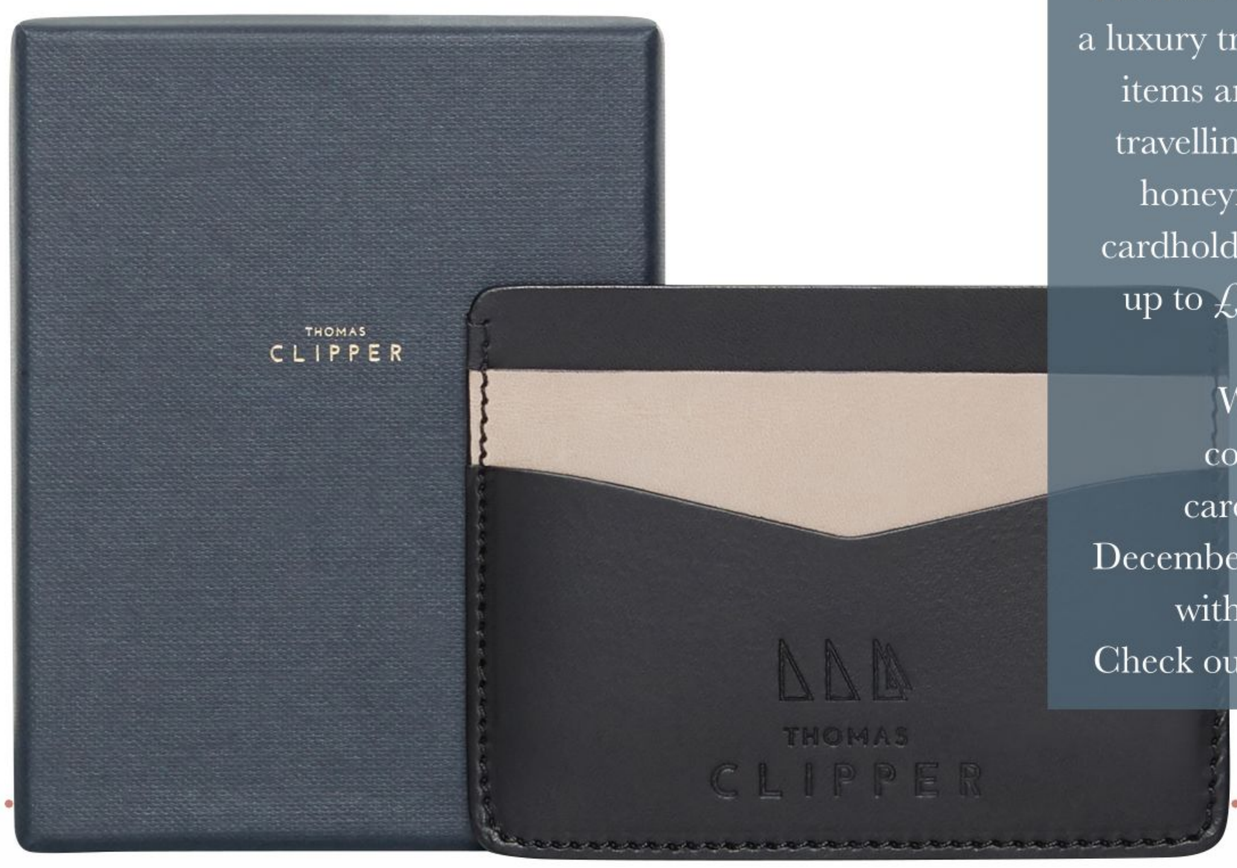
Available in three different textures, to suit all skin needs: Super Moisture Balm, Super Moisture Gel, and Super Moisture Lotion SPF 20, all are priced £30 from clarins.co.uk





Read all ABOUT IT!

Danielle Harvey shares her latest buys and product launches for guys



HANDHELD ESSENTIALS

Thomas Clipper has launched a luxury travel range. The new items are perfect for grooms travelling for their stag do or honeymoon, with a leather cardholder starting from £49 up to £1,195 for the leather overnight bag.

What's more, the new contrasting colour way cardholder – released in December – is sure to be a hit with fashion-led grooms.

Check out thomasclipper.com

Best foot forward

Cole Haan, the innovative American lifestyle brand and retailer, has introduced dress shoes as part of its collection.

The groundbreaking reinvention of the dress shoe combines traditional craft with modern engineering. Each unites lightweight and cushioned energy foam, a precision-engineered anatomical footbed, and full-motion outsole to create flexibility and comfort – essentials for the wedding day which can be a long affair!

Available styles include Hamilton Grand Wingtip Oxford, Washington Grand Laser Wingtip Oxford and Jefferson Grand Wingtip Oxford, prices range between £155 to £310. Launched in the UK in 2016, the brand is available at Harrods, Selfridges, Liberty and other selected retailers in the UK. Check out colehaanstore.co.uk





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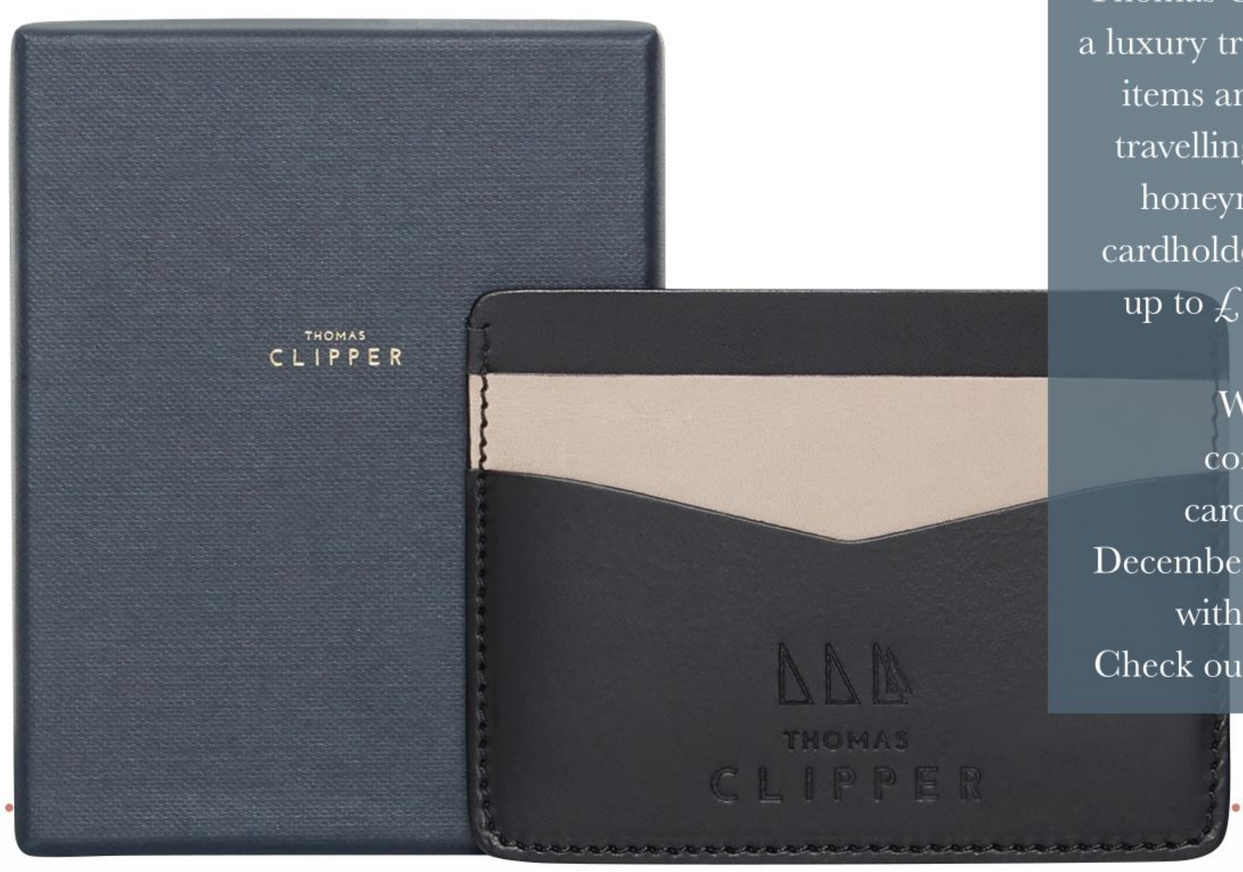
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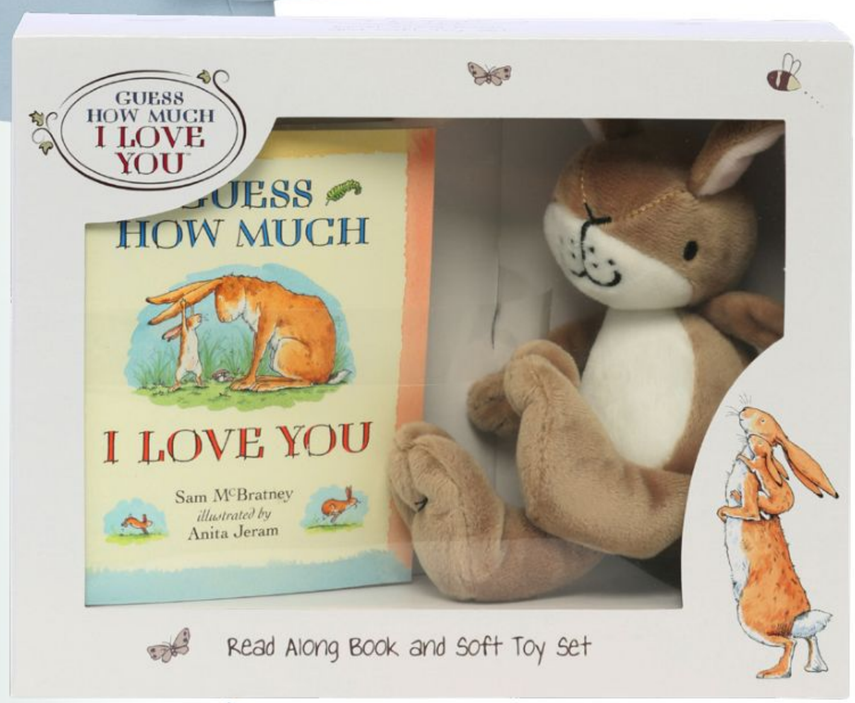


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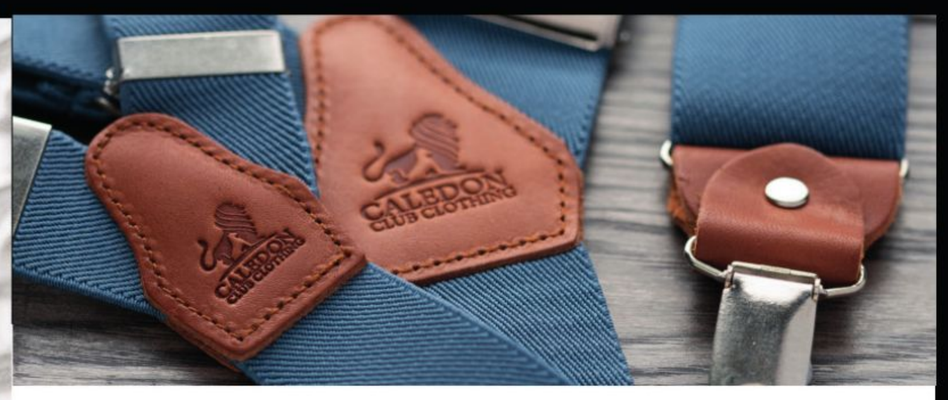
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WHICH DRESS WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

1



2



3



4



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BOUQUET?

1



2



3



4



CHOOSE THE MOST APPEALING CAKE

1



2



3



4



SELECT A STATIONERY SET

1



2



3

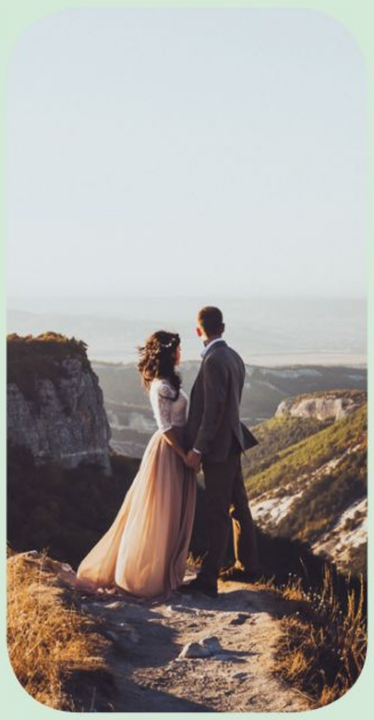


4



PICK YOUR FAVOURITE IMAGE

1



2



3



4



WHICH VENUE DO YOU PREFER?

1



2



3



4





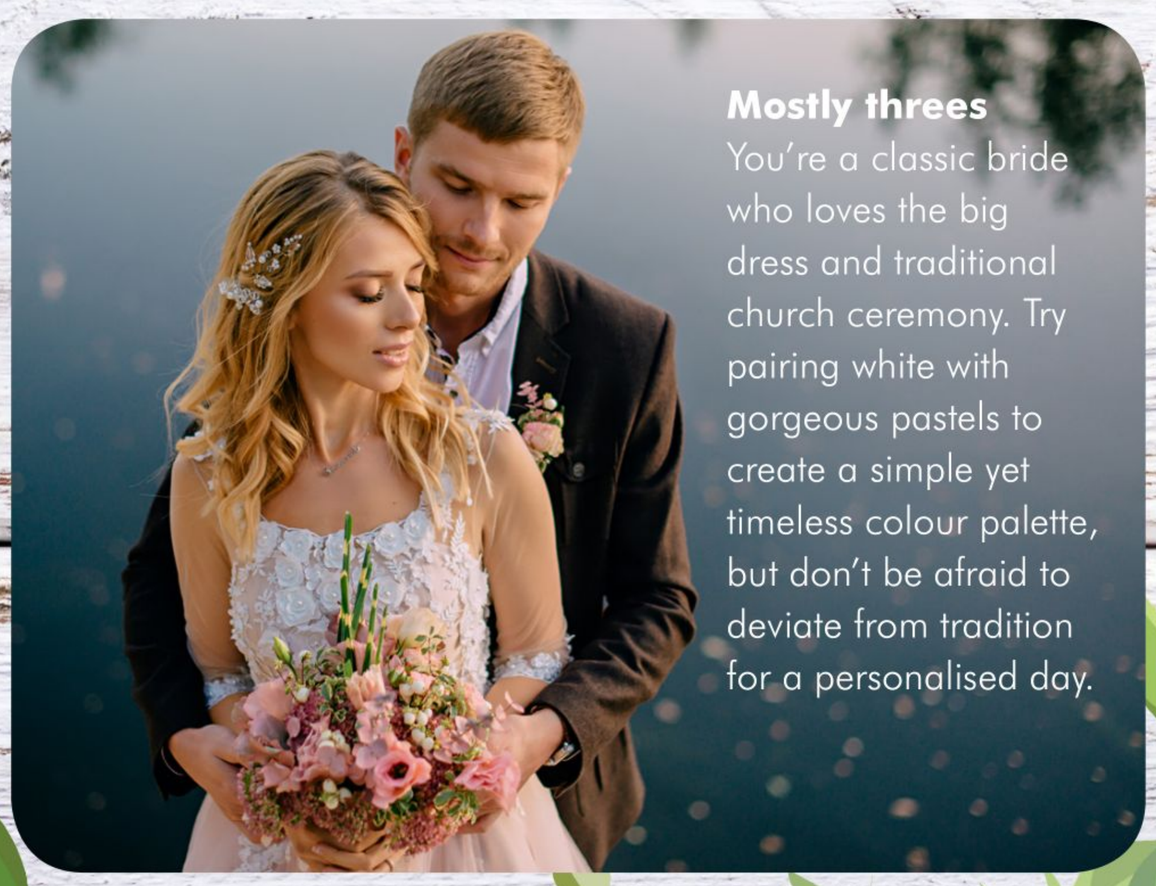
Mostly ones

You're a sophisticated woman who knows exactly what she wants. Celebrate your big day with an elegant soiree that will wow your nearest and dearest. Opt for large floral centrepieces, an impressive venue, a rich colour scheme and a oh-so fabulous dress.

Mostly twos

Boho weddings are on-trend and perfect for the more relaxed bride-to-be. Look for an al fresco venue, wear a must-have flower crown and a free-flowing gown, choose natural hues and fabrics.



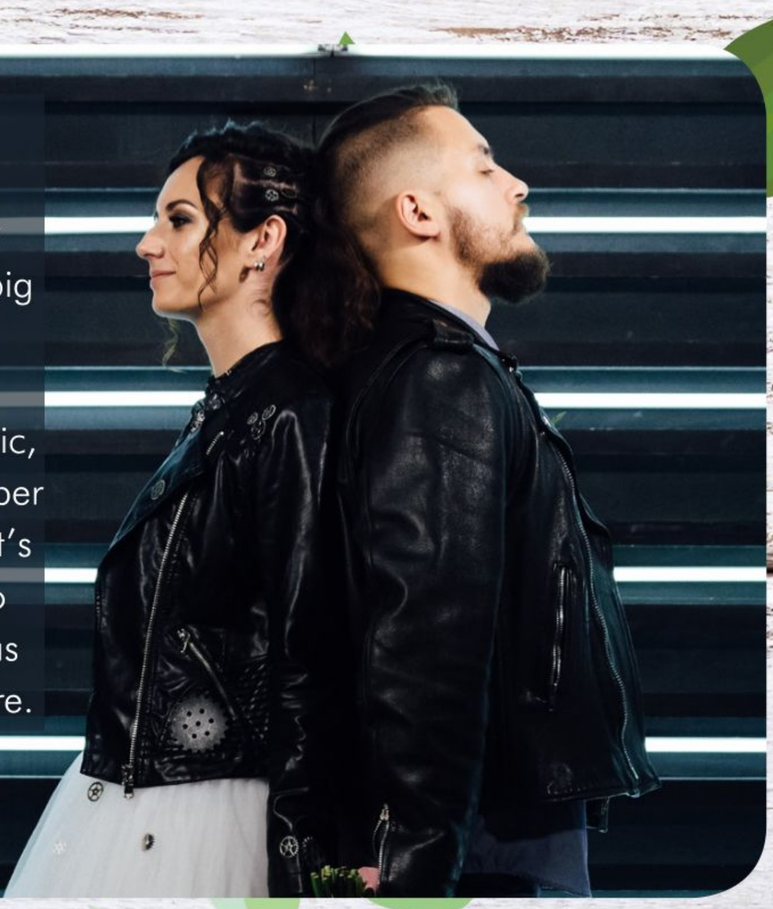


Mostly threes

You're a classic bride who loves the big dress and traditional church ceremony. Try pairing white with gorgeous pastels to create a simple yet timeless colour palette, but don't be afraid to deviate from tradition for a personalised day.

Mostly fours

You stand out from the crowd so it only makes sense your big day would too! Incorporate your favourite films, music, games and remember the sky's the limit! It's your wedding so go crazy and make it as individual as you are.





HOT TOPIC

BIG-DAY BOHO STYLE

Create your own wedfest with the help of our experts

GORGEOUS GOWN

We're planning an outdoor wedding with a relaxed vibe. What sort of dress should I opt for that will give me the boho look?

Sam says: If you're planning a relaxed wedding that breaks with tradition you're definitely a boho bride. You won't be wearing ivory satin shoes with a kitten heel or a tiara. When it comes to the dress, think crochet, statement lace and possibly tassels. Skirts can be flowing in soft chiffon but if you're thinking of a fitted gown, opt for relaxed with cheeky splits in the skirt. Illusion or barely-there-backs are popular and plunging necklines with embroidery appliqués complement outdoor nuptials. Willowby by Watters nails this look. Always fashion-forward and affordable, this is the go-to designer for me when looking for a relaxed vibe.

Meet the expert: Sam's the owner of Heritage Brides. She loves giving a personal service and helping brides-to-be find the dress of their dreams.

Sam Newby-Ricci
Bridal boutique owner
heritagebrides.co.uk

SETTING THE SCENE

I love the idea of a festival wedding and can't wait to get creative with the décor but I'm not sure where to start. Can you give me some ideas?

Pauline says: Typically this style takes place outside surrounded by nature and the sky's the limit when it comes to your styling. You can choose simplistic flowers or colourful wild blooms worn in the hair and used in hand-tied bouquets for that rustic feel. Paper lanterns will add a pop of colour to your venue and fairylights always look stunning adorning tress and in tents and tipis. During the afternoon, guests can have fun on bouncy castles and into the evening campfires and blankets are a lovely touch.

Add photo walls into your styling for that personal element and for your catering, street food served out of pop-up stalls or converted horseboxes or campervans will go down a treat. Live music will get the party started and for the ultimate festival-feel why not offer glitter tattoos and face painting?

Meet the expert: Pauline's the owner of Charmed Events. She's proud to have helped many couples create their perfect day and loves to help create memories to cherish forever.

Pauline Maxwell-King
Venue stylist
charmedevents.co.uk





NAKED BAKE

We've decided on a naked cake design to complement our rustic theme but I'm worried it'll go dry once it's displayed. Help!

Susan says: Essentially, exposed sponge will start to dry out in a way that cakes covered with sugar paste don't. If you want a cake that has no covering, then the risk of dryness can be mitigated by adding a little syrup to the sponge and ensuring that it's set up as close as possible to serving. A great way to overcome the problem of dryness is to have a semi-naked bake. This comprises a small amount of buttercream that's scraped around the outside to provide some protection for the sponge. It still won't be as well sealed as a sugar paste creation, but it could be the answer if you really love the naked cake style but still want some reasonable display time.

Meet the expert: Susan's background in sugar sculpture helps her to inject creative flair into the design process and create cakes that are personal, beautiful and delicious!

Susan Halil
Cake expert
cakesofgoodtaste.co.uk

GLAMP IT UP

The ultimate must-have for a festival wedding is a tipi but we have lots of guests so would it be large enough?

Ceri says: The beauty of tipis is that you can connect as many as you need together to create a space that'll accommodate your guest numbers. Most couples opt for two, three or four linked in a variety of formations – though in 2017, we linked seven for a huge Greek wedding!

To create a real festival-vibe you can separate your tipi into different sections. Use one for a bar or chill-out area, one for the meal, and one for a music area. If you've got a lot of kids coming, why not include a kids play area to keep them occupied?

Meet the expert: Ceri's been helping to plan tipi weddings for more than four years and loves to see the happiness unfold on such a special day.

Ceri Provis-Evans
Tipi expert
countrytipis.co.uk



elenapopa.com



SPRING BLOOMS

I love natural looking flowers. What options do I have for my springtime wedding?

Shane says: There are so many gorgeous flowers in bloom at this time of the year. Everyone instantly thinks tulips, so I'd steer clear of them to add a little more wow factor to your bouquet. Keep it traditional with a spring feel by adding hyacinths with roses for a lovely scent and add smaller flowers such as muscari. If you fancy being a bit braver then add a splash of colour using bold orange and yellow with succulents. Don't forget you can add tulips and other spring flowers on your table arrangements.

Meet the expert: Shane's strong sense of colour, design and a genuine passion for flowers is a winning combination.

Shane Maple
Florist
maplesflowers.co.uk

WIN!

A THREE-NIGHT STAY AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, LANGKAWI

Enter now for your chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to The Ritz-Carlton, Langkawi

Win a three-night luxury honeymoon for two, staying at The Ritz-Carlton, Langkawi. Nestled between lush rainforest on one side and the clear-blue Andaman Sea on the other, the five-star resort is located on the south west coast and is ideally positioned for guests looking to experience the best of Langkawi, an archipelago of 104 islands off mainland Malaysia. Boasting the island's only overwater spa, three swimming pools, four distinct dining venues and a private beach and bay with direct access to the region's renowned diving sites, the resort is a firm favourite with couples looking for a mix of adventure and relaxation. From the moment they arrive newlyweds are immersed in the local culture, with a welcome ritual on The Walkway of Wishes, where a calligrapher writes each guest's wish on a stone to be placed in the water for it to come true.

WORTH £3,735







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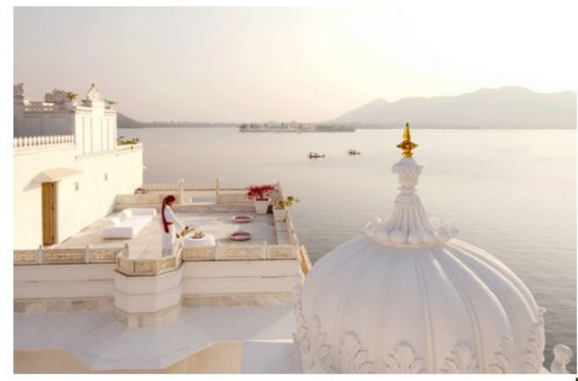
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BOMBAY DREAMS

Sri Lanka and the Maldives has long been a twin-centre honeymoon favourite, but thanks to the recent launch of Go Air's direct flights from Mumbai and Delhi to Malé International Airport, newlyweds can now consider travelling round India before jetting off to the paradise islands of the Maldives.

Couples can begin their trip in the thriving capital of Delhi before experiencing the splendour of the Royal Palaces of Rajasthan. From the sparkling waters of Udaipur, guests can check in to the regal Rambagh Palace in Jaipur's 'Pink City'. From here, honeymooners will venture to Mumbai to experience the culture and history of India's iconic monuments before taking a direct flight straight to the tropical paradise of the Maldives, ending the trip by relaxing at Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, Maldives – a boutique island resort located just 25 minutes by speed boat from Malé.

Ampersand Travel (ampersandtravel.com) offers the ultimate 12-night India and Maldives twin-centre itinerary, from £10,477 per person sharing.



HONEYMOON *News*

From a Michelin-starred foodie break to an exotic twin-centre adventure, we roundup the latest and greatest trips for newlyweds





ENJOY A FOODIE MINI-MOON IN TENERIFE

The luxurious Ritz-Carlton Abama has created the ultimate gourmet break for couples seeking an epicurean weekend away.

Newlyweds will dine at the resort's two world-renowned Michelin restaurants, each boasting top-class tasting menus accompanied by wine flights from the vast on-site cellar. Once the feasting has finished, honeymooners can retire to the adult-only Tagor villas set in lush tropical gardens and each with its own private pool and butler service. The Food of Love package starts at £2,580 per couple. For more information and to book, visit ritzcarlton.com/abama



WORLD'S MOST ROMANTIC RESORT

If there was ever any doubt over the honeymoon-worthy credentials of Baros Maldives, then winning the title of 'The World's Most Romantic Resort' for the sixth time has surely sent the boutique island resort to the top of any newlywed's wish list!

The bijou tropical island is home to three gourmet restaurants, two bars, a spa, an infinity pool and nature trails, and boasts excellent diving opportunities. Find out more at baros.com



BLUE SKY THINKING

In addition to white sand beaches, mesmerising turquoise waters and breathtaking sunsets, Sandals Halcyon Beach Resort in Saint Lucia has now unveiled the Caribbean's longest river pool. Couples staying in a Crystal Lagoon Walkout Swim-up Club Level Suite, which have just opened at Sandals Halcyon Beach Resort, can dip their toes in a serene Crystal Lagoon pool through their private walkout patio. In addition, the newly opened Crystal Lagoon Poolside Luxury Suite offers couples a relaxing setting from the comfort of a private balcony. Visit sandals.co.uk for details.

SUITE DREAMS

Villa Lena, set in the heart of wild Tuscany on grounds that include woodland, vineyards and olive groves, has recently introduced its first honeymoon hideaway – Casetta dell'Amore. The secluded two-floor suite has access to its own beautiful private garden, while a carefully curated palette of organic materials and furniture pieces creates a cosy and romantic interior. To book, visit villa-lena.it







SAIL INTO THE SUNSET

For a relaxing honeymoon on France's rivers, Emerald Waterways is offering an eight-day cruise that takes in the world-famous wine region of Burgundy. With a full programme of wine tastings, masterclasses and guided vineyard visits, whether you're an oenophile or aficionado, it's an experience not-to-be-missed. Book at emeraldwaterways.com

OUT OF AFRICA

Claire Ridley discovers Zanzibar and the Serengeti National Park for a beach and safari honeymoon of a lifetime

Located 40 kilometres off the coast of Tanzania, the Spice Island, as it's known, has a thriving spice trade from the locally-grown produce including cinnamon, nutmeg and clove. The five-star Meliá Zanzibar, an all-inclusive luxury beach resort built on a 40-acre estate, sits forty-five minutes from the airport by private transfer on the north east coast.

The resort offers 137 rooms and suites including Ocean View Bungalows that are the hotel's best offering for honeymooners. They feature a private balcony with sea views and a tropical semi-outdoor shower under the typical Makuti roof. There's also five restaurants and bars and The Spa, a tranquil beachfront spot.

WINING AND DINING

A walk down the jetty ends at The Jetty Lounge, a honeymooner's paradise. It's open for lunch (the fresh lobster is a must-try), dinner (serving international tapas) and cocktails at sunset.

Back on the beach, Aqua restaurant offers an al fresco dinner option where reservations are required. A candlelit supper with uninterrupted sea views isn't to be missed and neither is the coconut crab soup.

For something more relaxed, The Spice Market boasts open cooking stations serving a mix of international dishes with the Swahili Buffet being a highlight. These themed nights are very entertaining with live African music and dancing on the adjoining sheltered terrace. Those wanting to feel the sand between their toes can jump in a golf buggy to the Gabi Beach Club, a short distance from the main hotel, to feast on the grilled seafood. There's also the Pool Bar & Restaurant for sandwiches and snacks, while The Library Bar is perfect for a relaxing drink (the light Kilimanjaro beer is highly recommended.)

ROMANTIC MUST-DOS

- Relaxing on the idyllic 300-metre stretch of powder white sand and swimming in the crystal clear water is top priority, with Gabi Beach home to Balinese beds, a beach volley ball court, kayaks and kite surfing lessons, available at an extra charge.
- There's tennis and table tennis available, PADI diving, snorkeling (the resort is ringed by a natural coral reef), and an air-conditioned fitness centre.
- Enjoy a refreshing dip in the infinity pool with sun beds in the water – ideal for that poolside selfie!
- Those in need of some post-vow pampering should head to The Spa and enjoy a personalised treatment using a choice of the island blended massage oils made using natural spices. Pure Bliss (a combination of a body polish, wrap, massage and facial) and The Spa Signature Massage are not to be missed.

EXPLORING ZANZIBAR

- Visit the capital city of Stone Town with Fisherman Tours and wander through the spice market – be prepared for some hustle and bustle! (fishermantours.com)
- Book a boat trip with The Safari Blue on board a traditional Dhow. Snorkel with a guide and swim ashore a powdery sandbank before feasting on a Swahili seafood barbecue. If you're lucky, you'll spot dolphins at play (safariblue.net).

BOOK IT

Prices at Meliá Zanzibar start from £350 per night for a double Melia Garden Room in low season, melia.com @melia.zanzibar





SERENGETI







In the heart of the Serengeti National Park on the southern slopes of Nyamuma (which is the wildebeest and zebra migration route) sits the recently opened, eco-friendly Meliá Serengeti Lodge. Accessed from the Seronera Airstrip, (prepare for a very small aircraft from Zanzibar via Arusha), it's a five-star resort complete with 50 rooms and suites designed with a nod to the traditional Maasai culture. The two Serengeti Suites are best suited to honeymooners, decorated in soft, earthy tones with a terrace ideally placed for animal spotting. This can be screened off at night to allow in the sounds of the Serengeti. There's also an infinity pool, an outdoor fitness centre, spa, three restaurants and two bars at the property with everything designed to support the local environment.

WINING AND DINING

The Savannah Restaurant has been built with open-air views of the park. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served from the buffet with a large selection of dishes made using fresh ingredients including meat, fish, salad and fresh fruit with the watermelon smoothie a must-try!

Dine under the stars at Boma, a circular-shaped restaurant centered around an open firepit with a menu serving authentic African cuisine and the Maasai providing live music and dancing.

A light menu of tapas is available at The Terrace and traditional Tanzanian coffee (served with a stick of cinnamon) and homemade ginger tea (that's delicious) are available at The Bar along with a selection of African liquor.

BOOK IT

Prices for Meliá Serengeti Lodge start from £415 per night for the Game Drive all-inclusive package, melia.com @meliaserengeti

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- All UK visitors to Tanzania must have a visa for entry that cost £40, visit tzhc.uk
- Seek your doctor's advice for recommended vaccines and anti-malarial medication.

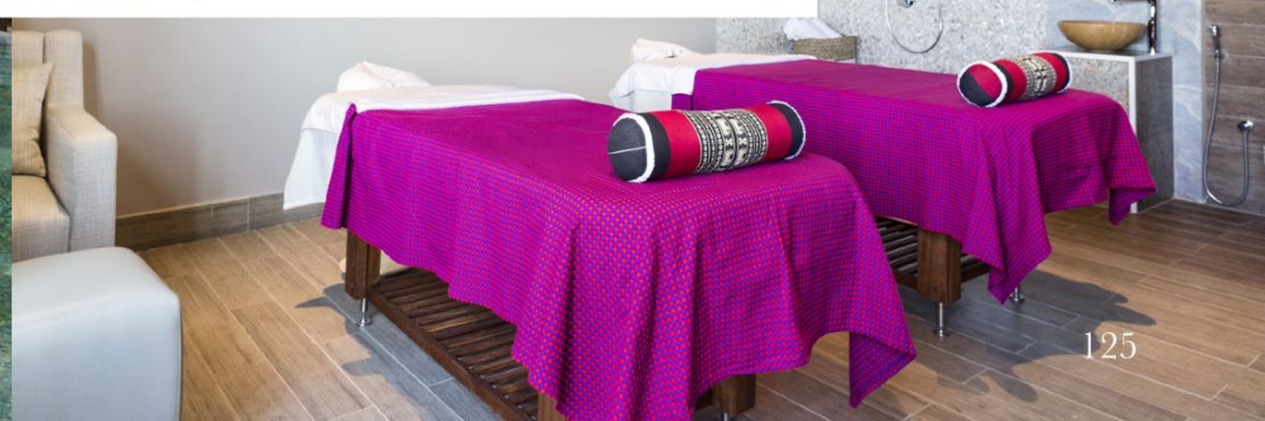
ROMANTIC MUST-DOS

- Sip on a cocktail at the infinity pool while taking in views of the stunning Serengeti.
- Learn how to bead a piece of jewellery.
- Take a walk around the property escorted by the Maasai, who also guard your room 24-hours a day. For those wanting to venture further afield, a guided walking safari can be arranged with the hotel.
- The stylish spa houses couples treatment rooms with a variety of massages, facials and body treatments on offer using blended oils including lemongrass, ginger and vanilla.

EXPLORING THE SERENGETI

- The park is famous for its abundance of wildlife and the only way to see it is during a game drive on board one of the hotel's fully equipped Jeeps with windows and a roof that opens. Our very experienced guide was Joel, and it was cameras at the ready as he guided us across the desert-like terrain to introduce us to this magical animal kingdom. Prepare to see lions, antelopes, zebras, giraffes and hyenas among others. There's up to 28 species of hoofed animals in the Serengeti with more than 530 different bird species.
- A picnic stop at the Hippo Pool provides a scenic lunch area to safely admire these larger than life creatures. The food is prepared by the chef at the lodge who will make up any picnic basket requests. There's plenty of refreshments on board as well as complimentary hand sanitizer, chilled face towels and sunscreen.
- An early morning start for an hour-long balloon safari at sunrise is a highlight not to be missed. Arranged through Serengeti Balloon Safaris (balloonsafaris.com), the flight is launched at dawn and floats over the plains, spotting plentiful wildlife in areas out of bounds to vehicles (off road driving is not permitted in most of the Serengeti). After a champagne toast on landing, you're seated and served a freshly prepared African breakfast in the bush before being presented with your flight certificate. It's worth noting here to make use of the 'loo with a view' as there may not be one available for a while.





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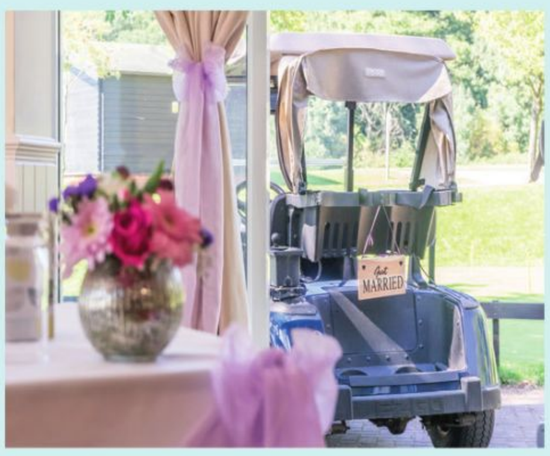














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The five new Hideaway Huts offer a honeymoon suite with a difference, featuring a lounge area with a wood burner.







MINI-MOON

Relax in the Scandi-chic lounge area or enjoy a game of pool in the games room.

DO NOT DISTURB

One of the most Instagrammable hotels in the Cotswolds, The Fish Hotel provides a grown-up getaway for mini-mooners

This relaxed, back-to-nature bolthole located on The Farncombe Estate is made for romance. The 63 bedrooms are showcased in a variety of buildings to suit all budgets, from the collection of converted shepherds' huts – lovingly known as Hilly Huts – to the Hideaway Huts and three treehouses.

The stylish seafood restaurant, Hook, offers the finest fish and shellfish, and there's the option of al fresco feasting on the deck (for a minimum of ten people), afternoon tea and private dining available.



The bar and lounge area, with its feature 360-degree fireplace, serves Cotswolds-brewed craft beer and informal lunches and dinner.



The luxury woodland treehouses are Scandinavian in style.

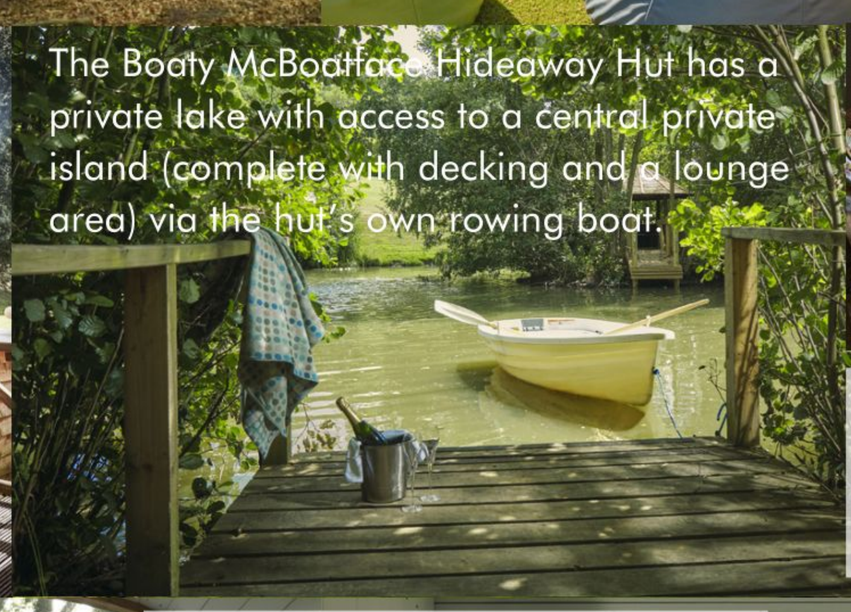


The six-bedroom farmhouse accommodating up to 15 guests has a private terrace.



The Feasting Deck offers outdoor dining with a difference, with dishes cooked in the wood-fired oven and Weber barbecue.





The Boaty McBoatface Hideaway Hut has a private lake with access to a central private island (complete with decking and a lounge area) via the hut's own rowing boat.



Enjoy a classic Afternoon Tea or a Gin Afternoon Tea in the bar and lounge.



We love the Hideaway Hut called *Fairy*, complete with outdoor seating area, hot tub and log store.



Snuggle up in the bedrooms of the Hideaway Huts with panoramic roofs – designed for stargazing – and roll-top baths.



The rustic Hook restaurant, the vision of culinary director Martin Burge, is a celebration of seafood. Highlights from the menu include sea bass with ginger, bok choi and Thai coriander broth plus a whole lemon sole with shrimp, caper and lemon Meuniere.

#FISHMOMENTS

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- ❤ The Games Room invites guests to a game of pool or to watch TV.
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- ❤ Pizzas can be ordered to the room along with a breakfast picnic hamper.
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For more information, visit chelseapeersnyc.com

We're delighted to team up with Chelsea Peers NYC to offer our readers this purple dressing gown and eye mask set. This super-soft and cosy combo features a "Do Nothing Club" sequin slogan on the back of the gown and across the silk-lined eye mask.

All you need to do to claim your set is take out a year's subscription to *Your Herts & Beds Wedding*.*

*Subject to availability. Available in sizes XS-XL, please contact our subscriptions department to state your size.

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BIG-DAY DÉCOR

Top venue styling tips



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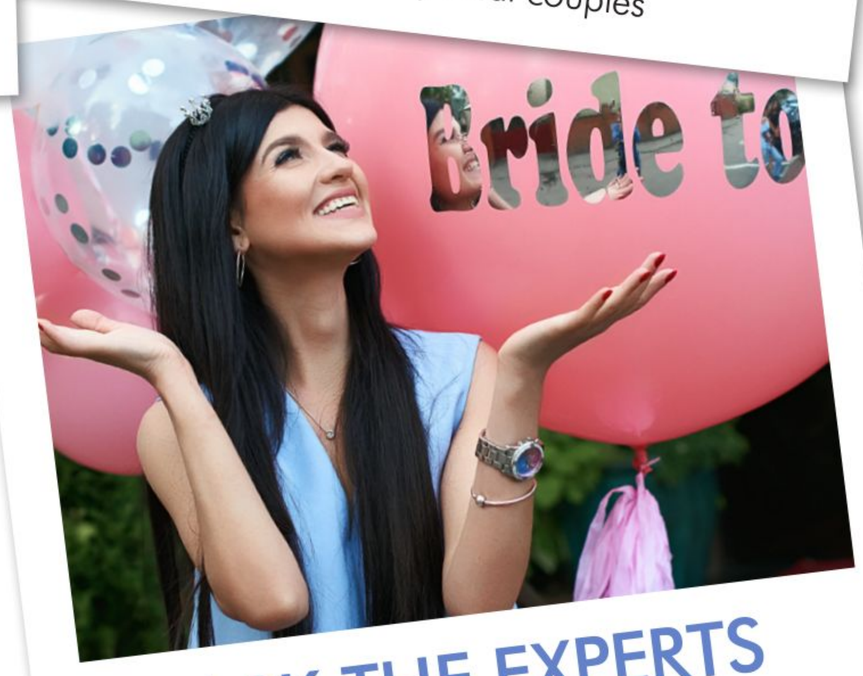
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The newlywed wish list: *accessories edit*

Annie Cannock brings together a fabulous selection of products to add to your home



Curva stool gold, £175, amara.com



Rhonda Antique Gold Room Screen, £330, artisanti.com



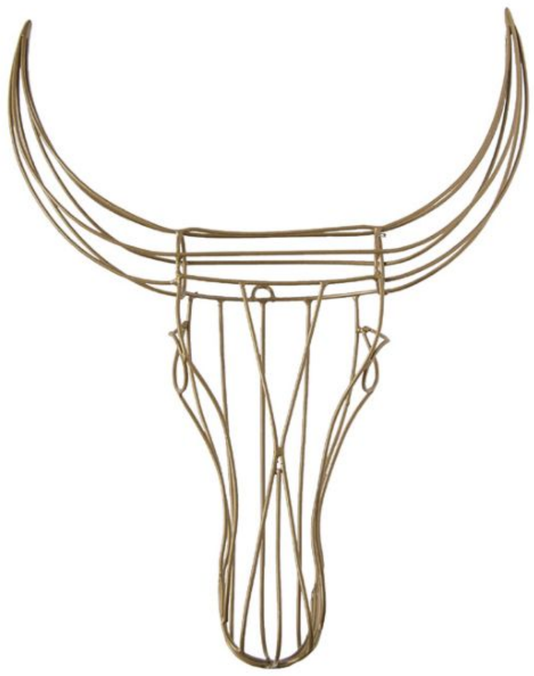
Metal wire fruit bowl, £24.95, cultfurniture.com



Glass bottle vase, £10.50, giselagraham.co.uk



Villandry mirror, £POA, oficinainglesa.com



Nguni Wire Head, £113, safarifusion.com.au



Pamplemousse luxury reed diffuser, £24, frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk



Luxe edit glass organiser, £18, debenhams.com



Gold minimal wall clock, £16.99, homesense.com



Gold-dipped carafe, £22, johnlewis.com



Core gold pen, £8, paperchase.com



Urban paradise rose gold margarita glass, £4.50, sainsburys.co.uk

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